Daily Report

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Ibero-American Summit

Ibero-American Summit Resumes Sessions

PY1607133993 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1300 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Live relay by Flavio Figueiredo from Salvador, Bahia]

[Text] The work of the Third Ibero-American Summit began just a few minutes ago. The 21 chiefs of state and government attending the meeting are presenting the sectorial reports for each country. The fourth work session of the summit will begin shortly. The issues to be discussed are education, culture, and science and technology as instruments for development.

The UN [as heard] and OAS secretary generals will address the summit at 1130 [1430 GMT]. At noon [1500 GMT], President Itamar Franco and the chiefs of state and governments will take a walk to Pelourinho square, where they will have some drinks. They then will pose for the official summit picture in front of the Jorge Amado Foundation. A luncheon will be held a 1300 [1600 GMT]. The chiefs of state and government then will return to the convention center to hold the last working session.

The summit will close by 1830 [2130 GMT] when the Salvador Declaration will be approved. This is a document that includes measures to fight poverty, hunger, and unemployment in the Ibero-American countries.

Heads of State, Officials Speak at Summit

Portuguese Prime Minister

PY1607153393 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1950 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Text] Salvador, Bahia, Brazil, 15 Jul (EFE)—Portuguese Prime Minister Anibal Cavaco Silva today condemned any institutional rupture in the Ibero-American countries by indicating that political democracy is linked to human rights.

Cavaco Silva advocated before the 21 Ibero-American countries the development of a common space to allow the summit to have a greater influence on the mechanisms of international political decision.

He pointed out that the previous summits held in Guadalajara (1991) and Madrid (1992) created a real code of conduct on the new space of political, economic, and cultural consensus.

Cavaco Silva said he is convinced that economic growth should be made within the rules of sustained development to carry out the struggle against poverty and drugs.

The reestablishment of the North-South dialogue within the United Nations, the promotion of intercultural debate, and the implementation of free world trade were mentioned by Cavaco Silva as possible issues to be proposed by the 21 Ibero-American countries in international meetings.

He also emphasized the importance the Common Market of the South (Mercosur) has for interregional trade, adding that Portugal plans to support the common market initiative of Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay, and Uruguay in the EC.

Cavaco Silva also indicated that the UN system should integrate the international efforts for social development, and praised the progress of democracy, economic reforms, and free trade.

OAS' Baena Soares

PY1607153293 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1450 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] Salvador, Brazil, 16 Jul (EFE)—OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares said today that the Ibero-American community "is a new factor of initiative for international dialogue."

In his speech before the Third Ibero-American Summit of chiefs of state and government, Baena Soares said this community "is establishing itself with the clear potential of political action, constituting a force with the capability of reaching an equilibrium in the current disorderly world."

Baena Soares regretted that currently "ancient conflicts between communities and nations, which in the past were somewhat repressed, have resulted in tragic violence."

He added: "The apparent trade unity among the industrialized world is worsening the circumstances with negative consequences for the South."

The OAS secretary general said: "Total development shows that besides economic action, it is also necessary to have access to education, to preserve cultural values, to promote scientific research, and to disseminate technology."

He also said that this should be accompanied through "the preservation of the environment and, mainly, through the creation of conditions to improve the distribution of wealth."

"In relatively equal societies, the market economy facilitates the efficient use of resources and promotes economic expansion and the spreading of its benefits. But in societies where there is limited participation, the market works in favor of those who have full access to it, in detriment of the poor," Baena Soares said.

He stressed: "Extreme injustice and poverty weaken the exercise of democracy. Political freedom, economic progress, and social justice cannot be disassociated."

Finally, he said: "The main responsibility of the political opening of this last decade of the 20th century is to answer the expectations that have been created with facts."

Brazil's Franco

PY1607160893 Rio de Janeiro TVE Television in Portuguese 1418 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Speech by President Itamar Franco on the second day of the Third Ibero-American Summit at the Salvador Convention Center—live]

[Text] Messrs. chiefs of state and government.

The central subject of our meeting, the Agenda for Development, stressing the need for social progress, demands from us greater attention to the actions that could have a direct effect on the living conditions of our people.

Now that ideological Manichaeanism has been overcome, the growing interdependence among all nations of the world is becoming more evident with the (?reconciliation)

of the interests of some with the interests of all, which will bring new opportunities, new challenges, and new risks.

There is a renewed desire to work for the consolidation of peace that is based on social development. It was already said, and it is appropriate to repeat, that full development is the name of peace.

The documents approved in Guadalajara and Madrid reflect our willingness to strengthen cooperation among our nations, taking into account the points of identity that keep us close to each other.

We want to build, with dialogue and the coordination of our national policies, new forms of international cooperation that will effectively contribute to social progress. This new behavior must be guided by ethical norms of reciprocity and solidarity, within the principles of liberty and justice.

With this understanding, we will be able to identify the areas in which Ibero-American cooperation will be consolidated and developed in a creative and pragmatic manner, with the essential participation of international organizations.

The sectorial works carried out during this meeting, which is of a higher level, provide us the reports submitted for our consideration, the subsidies that are important to fight poverty, disease, and hunger, without forgetting the suggestions referring to the problems of children and adolescents.

In the same manner, they guide us toward the promotion of scientific and technological exchange and the universalization of education. Financial mechanisms are sought for the achievement of programs in all these areas.

The work specifically being carried out in this summit, at this moment, is the result of the active participation by different official organizations and organizations of Ibero-American countries, and they are proposing the possible exchange alternatives.

The suggestions we are receiving, outstanding suggestions, will guide the decisions we will have to make.

To consolidate the initiatives approved in Salvador we have the appropriate support of capable government agents in each of our countries. I am sure we also will receive the support of nongovernmental organizations concerned with the well-being of our peoples.

Our success also will depend on the action in solidarity of international organizations that perform in different areas. I am certain that we will not lack the support and participation of all. Thank you Mr. President.

Bolivian President Paz Zamora

PY1607170893 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2044 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Text] Salvador, Brazil, 15 Jul (EFE)—Bolivian President Jaime Paz Zamora today asked for an opening of international trade and financial flows to be able to carry out efficient social development policies.

Paz Zamora announced in his speech at the Third Ibero-American Summit of chiefs of state and government the implementation of one of the projects created during a past summit—the Indigenous Peoples Development Fund, whose headquarters is in Bolivia.

This organization, which will serve to promote the autochthonous peoples of the whole continent, is complying with one of the objectives of the Ibero-American summits, Paz Zamora said.

"We did not come to this summit empty-handed," he said in reference to the main subject of the summit, development and social problems in the Ibero-American region. The summit in Salvador, he said, "has the obligation of making clear suggestions to promote social progress and development."

The United Nations, Paz said, should constitute "a technological bridge" among the world's nations, and he added: "Let us make man the creator of his own development."

"Access to knowledge is the main cause of poverty and wealth," the Bolivian president said as he urged the Ibero-American countries "to propose that essential technology necessary for health, education, housing, and nourishment be declared a patrimony of humanity."

Paz Zamora defended the adoption of "human and sustainable" economic development models "in keeping with the human scale."

He also insisted on the fact that development will only be achieved by "removing the obstacles" from trade, technological exchange, political and economic cooperation, and financial flows. "Whenever there are trade barriers we should topple the walls; if technology separates us, we must share it," the president said.

In the opinion of Paz Zamora, access to international financing is essential to allow developing countries to comply with their social goals. But international solidarity in the fields of education, culture, and science also are essential, he added.

Paz Zamora also mentioned the efforts by Bolivia to improve the social situation of its people and he commented on the programs his administration implemented with this objective.

He also pointed out that for the first time a system was created in Bolivia to facilitate the transition to the next administration, which will take power on 6 August.

On that day the Bolivian Congress will elect a new president, which, according to the agreements reached among the political forces, will be Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada, leader of the Nationalist Revolutionary Movement (MNR).

Colombia's Gaviria

PY1607225193 Rio de Janeiro TVE Television in Portuguese 2117 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Speech by Colombian President Cesar Gaviria at the closing ceremony of the Third Ibero-American Summit in Salvador, Brazil—live]

[Text] Mr. President of the Federative Republic of Brazil; Your Majesty the Spanish King; Messrs. heads of state and government; Messrs. foreign ministers; Mr. Governor of the State of Bahia; ladies and gentlemen.

This session marks the end of the deliberations of the Third Ibero-American Summit. We are convinced that we have taken a step forward in the difficult mission of building a future of greater prosperity and well-being, for the hundreds of millions of fellow countrymen who today live in hopelessness and poverty. To them, to the have-nots, to the ones who have been abandoned by history, we can tell them that they are not alone, that the Ibero-American political will is now part of their assets, a promise for their future.

In fact, friends, by signing here the declaration of Salvador de Bahia, we have not simply signed a list of good desires. This meeting has imposed on us the moral and political obligation of going even further, of joining energy and courage in order to truly overcome these barbarian times in which misery and starvation prevail among so many people, particularly in Latin America.

At the beginning of the 21st century, extreme poverty should be nothing but a nightmare of the past, which will never again affect children, women, peasants, indigenous people, and the more humble people of Ibero-America.

Here we have also learned that work becomes easier and that the burden becomes lighter if, as a group that is united by culture, history, and common interests, we assume joint, common positions in the international arena.

The consensus that has been reached here about the priority of social spending, about the efficiency of the state and its new role, about the modification of institutions and policies, and about the struggle against protectionism, must be echoed in all parts and must be reflected by all decisions.

Only in this way will it be possible to speak about an Ibero-American community of peoples and nations.

All these accomplishments would not have been possible without the magic emanating from the beautiful city of Salvador de Bahia. It has been especially pleasant for us to be the guests of this brown land of axe and samba, of immense beaches and great men.

None of us has failed to notice this magic, which has nurtured the sensitivity of [Bahian poet] Castro Alves and the imagination of [writer] Jorge Amado.

Here, in a city in which endless sources of happiness appear on every corner, in which Africa has joined America to fill it with vitality, we have renewed our breath and our hopes. To all the people of Salvador de Bahia, thank you very much.

On behalf of all the chiefs of state and government of Ibero-America, I would like to express to you, Mr. President Itamar Franco, my warmest feelings of gratitude for the hospitality with which you have welcomed us, yet above all for the immense wisdom with which you have oriented our deliberations.

We also express our gratitude to Bahia Governor Antonio Carlos Magalhaes, to Salvador Mayor Lidice da Matta, and to the temporary secretariat and its president, Flavio Perry.

Our next meeting will be in Colombia, in Cartagena de Indias, another historic bay that has marked Ibero-American life. I want to invite everyone, so that from that place, inspired by the light of the Caribbean, we may take a further step in our endeavours to take advantage of our common identity, putting it to the service of the well-being and progress of our peoples.

My fellow countrymen will feel proud of your presence in our land. You will find there warm expressions of hospitality and a willingness to find unity.

Now that we have made significant progress in the debate and in our agreements on social development issues, Colombia wants to propose to the Ibero-American chiefs of state that we make our meeting in Cartagena de Indias an appropriate occasion for addressing Ibero-American economic, commercial, and integration matters.

Many of the possibilities of moving forward in the search for a more balanced and juster society are closely dependent on our ability to meet the challenges of the economy and of commercial integration.

Our next meeting can afford a chance for reflecting on how to build a more closely united, more open, and more integrated Ibero- American economy.

This dialogue will also help us to become increasingly close to the various regional integration processes, thus nearing the common ideal of an Ibero-America without borders and without barriers.

Let us start working today to build upon the basis of the achievements of Guadalajara, Madrid, and Salvador de Bahia.

May Cartagena de Indias also be recalled as a further step in the common effort to turn Ibero-America into something that goes beyond cultural identity and a shared past, something that may become a synonym for the well-being of our peoples. Thank you very much.

Ecuadoran President Duran-Ballen

PY1607134793 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2211 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Text] Salvador, 15 Jul (EFE)—Ecuadoran President Sixto Duran-Ballen today vehemently defended what he called the "modernization of the state" as the starting point for Ibero-America's socioeconomic development.

In his speech to the summit being held in Salvador, Duran-Ballen said the world is living in a "time of changes" in which the structure of some states has either disappeared or undergone a transformation.

The Ecuadoran president said that ways of life have changed and become more realistic. But he deplored that the "cold war" of ideologies was followed by a "bloody war" of ethnic groups and religions.

He warned that the gap between the rich and the poor also has expanded, and that this situation has occurred in the context of an interdependent world calling for rapid and effective transformation.

Duran-Ballen said the changes that his government has sought to introduce aim at modernizing the state in order to make it more efficient.

The Ecuadoran president emphasized that this calls for "returning decision-making power to people" in a more stable atmosphere. It also calls for promoting broad debates

on political modernization, and for the decentralization of bureaucracy in order to increase efficiency.

Duran-Ballen reiterated that governments must commit themselves to promoting stable development, which makes institutions democratic, giving more participation to the private sector.

He emphasized that his government is striving to favor the have-nots, trying to meet the physical needs of the poorer classes. He said that such action should seek to improve health care, education, protection of childhood, and other basic community services.

He added that all sectors should be given guarantees to work. In this regard, he urged the private sector to set goals for itself in terms of work and projects that can guarantee social development.

Duran-Ballen condemned the barriers imposed on key export products and farm products, mentioning the case of bananas—Ecuador's main export—on which the EC recently imposed tariff restrictions. The Ecuadoran president warned that decisions like this do not help promote development, reiterating that the Ibero-American Summit should adopt a position of solidarity.

He urged his Ibero-American colleagues to adopt concrete and feasible measures, and to "join efforts for the sake of human development." "Only if we take concrete action on the problems can we offer to our children a safe and positive future as Ibero- American citizens," the president emphasized.

Paraguayan President Rodriguez

PY1607154593 Asuncion PATRIA in Spanish 16 Jul 93 p 7

[Speech by Paraguayan President Andres Rodriguez at the Third Ibero-American Summit in Salvador, Brazil, on 15 July]

[Text] During his speech to the Ibero-American Summit, the Paraguayan president stressed the importance of dialogue on subjects of common interest, that is, the set of social problems.

"We hope this happy meeting will bring solutions to the most urgent social problems that, in most countries of our continent, have the common denominator of insufficient resources," he said.

The Paraguayan president added that these types of top-level meetings are achievements that lead us to improve relations through the exchange of information on our experience, suggestions, and mutual support, and inspire us to learn more about our real situation, guiding us toward the adoption of measures capable of correcting deficiencies.

President Rodriguez added: "In my country's case, social problems stemming partly from the impact of previous political processes tend to expand their effects due to the high population growth rate, which is unrelated to the development of resources that can offer them a solution."

He said that in the past decade Paraguay recorded a 3.2 percent increase in the population. "This figure, compared with 2.8 percent in the same period the previous year, represents an important change, the consequences of which are felt in the areas of education, housing, health, and especially in the need for employment," the Paraguayan president said.

He added that in the area of education, it is easy to understand the magnitude of the problem when every year we have a new generation that demands education and that must be satisfied with more schools, more classrooms, more educators, and more education elements, the cost of which put pressure on public finances with the urgency demanded by its own priority nature.

"In the area of public health we can observe a situation similar to what happens in education," Rodriguez said. He added that the increase in population demands more hospitals, doctors, and more medicines to fulfill the prevention program and health treatment, with a logical increase in the budget. He said that probably the most serious of these social aspects is the lack of employment for approximately 50,000 youths who annually demand a place in the labor market.

"Not being able to fully comply with these demands, frustrations and disappointments emerge, the consequences of which lead, most often, to undesirable effects," the president said. To face these situations Paraguay has made a tremendous effort in the past few years seeking to find the required solutions.

This Third Ibero-American Summit is the most adequate forum to frankly outline all the achievements as well as all the demands for understanding and cooperation to optimize the national resources earmarked for social goals.

"In this regard, my country will feel strengthened in its aspirations on obtaining the cooperation and the support of other countries and international organizations to go on with the sustained effort to overcome the problems," he said.

As channels of that cooperation, he called for technical assistance by the United Nations, the OAS, and through bilateral programs with other developed countries and by financial support from the Inter-American Development Bank and the World Bank, among others.

He expressed hope that this third summit will mark a milestone in the development process of our countries, based on fraternal understanding by the Ibero-American countries of their common origin, aspirations, and destinies.

He said Paraguay today is fully reinstated in the world of free nations, and that a president elected in free elections held in the presence of international observers will assume office soon.

He concluded: "I am leaving with the satisfaction of having fulfilled my mission, thanking each representative of this Third Ibero-American Summit, and extending my gratitude for the friendship and consideration with which I was treated during my government, and for the fine and cordial manner in which I was received in these presidential meetings."

Dominican Vice President Troncoso

PY1607173593 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1920 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Text] Salvador, Brazil, 15 Jul (EFE)—Dominican Republic Vice President Carlos Morales Troncoso, at the opening of the Third Ibero-American Summit, said development is unfeasible without solidarity, democracy, and justice.

Morales, who is representing President Joaquin Balaguer, who excused himself from attending the meeting due to health and age (he is 85) problems, stated that a "new comprehensive concept of development" is necessary to counter poverty "within a framework of freedom and democracy."

Morales added: "Political achievements must go hand in hand with socioeconomic development. Only then will it be possible to overcome the scourge of poverty that suffocates large segments of this hemisphere's society."

Morales said: "There is a new world, namely a world characterized by globalization," in which the exchange of ideas and the search for joint solutions is becoming increasingly necessary.

Morales commented that the so-called "lost decade" of Latin America, that is, the past decade during which the region faced serious economic and growth difficulties, paradoxically witnessed "a new democratic spring."

Morales Troncoso added: "Politically speaking, the 80's were very profitable years."

He added: "The present times require that we promote a fairer distribution of income that reduces the huge social gaps that distort our democratic achievements."

Guatemalan President De Leon Carpio

PY1607162493 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2148 GMT 15 Jul 93

[All quotation marks as received]

[Text] Salvador, 15 Jul (EFE)—Guatemalan President Ramiro de Leon Carpio today assured in Brazil that he is not committed to any particular group but only to the country and its people.

The attempt to break Guatemala's institutional life failed because "the international community, including Ibero-America, reacted immediately," said de Leon Carpio, who replaced Jorge Serrano after the failure of the coup in that Central American nation.

"The Guatemalan people saved their democracy, which they prefer to any dictatorship. We now are working to build a better future. Civil groups united and the Army fulfilled its duty of respecting and enforcing the Constitution and the law," the president said at the Ibero-American Summit being held in Brazil.

He added: "Ten days before being elected by Congress, I was literally running over roofs to avoid being captured."

"My designation means the advent of a government that will keep an eye on human rights, which is a great responsibility shared by Vice President Arturo Herbruger Asturias, an old servant of the fatherland, a patriarch whose 10-year tenure as head of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal consolidated credibility in democracy."

The president noted that Ibero-Americans "should communicate among ourselves better, know ourselves, exchange our products. Big countries do not have to give alms to small countries, but give them a deserved opportunity of participating in real solidarity."

He demanded the lifting of protectionist barriers against smaller countries because "this way everyone will help one another overcome shortages like underdevelopment, and take defensive action against common enemies like drug trafficking, "which is a true scourge that we have to fight and that has unfortunately taken root in this continent."

De Leon Carpio added that his country "suffers high illiteracy indexes, but has a Nobel Literature Prize winner (Miguel Angel Asturias, 1967)."

"My country has bled for 32 years under the oldest internal armed conflict in the continent, yet it has a Nobel Peace Prize winner," Rigoberta Menchu.

"For several years it has suffered human rights violations, but because of a spontaneous patriotic attitude, and without any bloodshed, the human rights attorney is now the president," he added.

He recalled that Guatemala has to meet the challenge of resolving its internal armed conflict, which has claimed tens of thousands of lives, leaving widows and orphans.

"To this end, I already have made a proposal for a qualitatively different peace process based on consensus and mediation," he said.

He emphasized: "I fervently want the armed conflict to come to an end because more Guatemalans may die everyday and this fills me with consternation, because Guatemala deserves and needs its children alive, fighting, but for peace and social justice, struggling, but against poverty, because starvation kills democracy."

Further Statements

PA1707153293 Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO in Spanish 16 Jul 93 p 3

[Text] Guatemalan President Ramiro de Leon Carpio on 15 July gave a speech before the presidents at the Third Ibero-American Summit in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil.

According to a bulletin issued by the Presidency's Information Secretariat, the president stressed in his speech that the rich nations do not need to give handouts to the poor nations, rather, they should be allowed to be part of a true solidarity. The rich nations, he noted, should purchase our goods and remove protective tariffs.

Carpio added: "Guatemala is open for investments; it is now a nation that can be trusted. This is why it invites local and foreign private investment because it has a dynamic and modern business sector, combined with conscientious union and peoples' associations, as well as an Army prepared for peace."

In a speech that was widely applauded, according to the presidents, President Carpio talked about the peace proposal, his commitment to the nation's democratization, and the peoples' demand for the purging of the state's branches.

An important part of his message was the request for Ibero-American cooperation for the preservation of the Peten jungle. Carpio said: "Its conservation is impossible for a small nation and the effects of illegal and uncurbed downing of trees would be detrimental for the whole planet."

Carpio concluded: "We Ibero-Americans should take advantage of the last years of this current century to consolidate or to discover our great values. We have the necessary elements to be a human power. We have abundant natural resources. Nevertheless, no one will do for us what we do not do for ourselves."

Salvadoran President Cristiani

PA1807211593 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 17 Jul 93 p 15

[Text] On 17 July, President Alfredo Cristiani proposed the heads of state participating in the summit taking place in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil—one of the world's most significant cultural gatherings—unite in order to concentrate on three of mankind's greatest issues: development, peace, and democracy. He added that the only way we will be able to ensure a just society is by guaranteeing liberty, security, and nation building without demagoguery and fanaticism. Cristiani also pronounced himself in favor of developing mechanisms that will prevent internal and international conflicts.

The proposal was made by the president at the conclusion of his speech which dealt with the pacification process taking place in El Salvador. He indicated that the message from the Salvadoran experience centers on adopting an awareness that dynamics of development can only be stable and sustained if it takes place within a culture of peace. In addition, he said promoting such a culture is not merely the obligation of those countries that have undergone conflicts. He said it is in everyone's interest because there is a need to develop action and cooperation mechanisms which prevent destructive internal and international conflicts.

When he referred to UN efforts to ensure peace, not only through mechanisms of force but also through ambitious programs promoting basic values of peace and democracy, Cristiani stated that all Salvadorans had enthusiastically participated in the UN initiatives and would like to put their experiences at the disposal of everyone.

During part of his speech, Cristiani referred to the fact that the world currently has globalized into undeniable features, but it has done so with an awareness of a shared universal destiny which becomes more relevant and vital with each passing day.

He pointed out that the summit's theme was: "An Agenda for Development With Emphasis on Social Development." He added that the issue is of importance to all of us, commits all of us, and challenges all of us. The president stated that for a long time now, development had been perceived as an issue isolated from other important things such as democracy, peace, justice, liberty, and security. "Nothing could be more unreal," Cristiani said. Without a doubt, he added, one of the most relevant and pragmatic accomplishments at this time is the feeling of solidarity because no great issue or problem is an island. The new world vitality movement is not directed toward specific poles, but toward complete involvement in the problems of mankind.

The Salvadoran president expressed that, currently, polarization is a museum piece, and he added that dialogue, understanding, and mutual respect are the principles and valid mechanisms in the renewed conception of development. He attested that a specific process is settling in El Salvador. Salvadorans do not express any embarrassment when describing this process as commendable because this description is used by the UN secretary general himself. In addition, Cristiani said that development is only understandable within the validity of peace, and peace is only conceivable as an acceptable reasoning of diversity—in other words, pluralism.

He indicated that we live in a world where everyone learns something. The culture of peace is, deep down, the culture of a healthy and enriching coexistence.

President Says 'Castro Must Cooperate'

PY1907154993 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2339 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Text] Rio de Janeiro, 18 Jul (EFE)—Portuguese President Mario Soares arrived in Rio de Janeiro today for a two-day visit and harshly criticized Cuban President Fidel Castro whom he blamed for the economic embargo that the United States has levied on Cuba.

The Portuguese president said: "Fidel Castro should be saddened by what he is doing and realize that something is wrong. Anyone who has been in power for 30 years and ends up facing misery and isolation must engage in self-criticism."

Soares lamented the poverty that plagues the Cuban people because of the U.S. embargo but blamed it on Castro's inflexibility regarding Cuba's political regime.

He emphasized: "For us to help him, Castro must cooperate. First he must free political prisoners and establish a democratic government, but Castro does not want to even discuss these issues."

Soares said: "If he wants the economic blockade lifted, he must first tear down his own mental block."

He added that the democratization of the 1980's is an accomplishment by Ibero-American countries that must be protected from harmful examples like those of Castro or Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori.

Soares commented on the Third Ibero-American Summit in Salvador, Brazil, saying that "democracy helps us move forward but it must be implemented in all countries, including Cuba and Peru."

This afternoon Soares arrived in Rio de Janeiro from Sao Paulo where, together with 12 other presidents, he attended the ceremony to dedicate the permanent headquarters of the Latin American Parliament.

The Portuguese president will return to his country on 20 July. Today he lunched with a group of Brazilian businessmen and will tonight meet with Rio de Janeiro Governor Leonel Brizola.

Di Tella Blames Meeting Failure on Castro's Radical Speech

PY1607194893 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1730 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] Salvador, Brazil, 16 Jul (NA)—Argentine Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella has said that the "radical speech" by Fidel Castro during the opening session of the Third Ibero-American Summit frustrated the little possibilities that remained to arrange a meeting between Argentine President Menem and the Cuban leader.

A little before midnight on 15 July, and before his meeting with Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina to try to minimize the effects of the bilateral dispute, Di Tella said that following this speech "there are very little possibilities that Menem and Castro will meet in the near future."

The following is a summary of an interview with Di Tella:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] What will happen to the Menem-Castro meeting?

[Di Tella] I do not know. I must meet tonight [15 July] with Minister Robaina. I do not think the conditions for a meeting are right. Castro delivered a radical speech at the summit, he did not show any change. We must now see if it is worthwhile meeting with him. Following that speech it is really not worthwhile.

[Reporter] Is President Menem still interested in meeting with Castro?

[Di Tella] The president is willing to meet with him, or with anyone else, but the meeting must be fruitful.

[Reporter] This means that the much-announced meeting...

[Di Tella, interrupting] the much-announced meeting was invented by the media, as always...

[Reporter] Excuse me, but it was not an invention of the media.

[Di Tella] Well, it was not announced by the Foreign Ministry, we never said that such a meeting would take place. It was a possibility, just as it was a possibility that President Menem would meet with his 21 other colleagues.

[Reporter] What happened then?

[Di Tella] At a given moment we thought there could be a possibility of change by Castro, that is, if a meeting was scheduled it should be carried out without an agenda. We have not changed our position in the least.

[Reporter] Did the Argentine Government concede somewhat so that the meeting could take place?

[Di Tella] We have not conceded anything. If I were to base myself on Castro's speech, I would say that he adopted a radical position, or however you want to call it.

[Reporter] Fidel Castro said he will meet with anyone who asks him for an interview.

[Di Tella] Well, we did not ask for one.

[Reporter] Will you ask to meet with Fidel Castro?

[Di Tella] No. But before discussing if we or they should ask for a meeting, we must first see if there are enough subjects to discuss.

[Reporter] Is Argentina still interested in meeting Fidel Castro?

[Di Tella] Argentina is interested in making Castro democratize Cuba fast and respect human rights. Only in that manner will Cuba be able to join the American system. That is what worries us, and we observe that a catastrophe is dangerously close.

[Reporter] The president seemed to arrive with a conciliatory attitude but on the following day he was very firm about Castro.

[Di Tella] I think he was very firm the whole time.

[Reporter] Could the two presidents meet after all this mess?

[Di Tella] Yes and no. Under certain conditions it could be useful, but we do not see that the conditions are right. [end recording]

'Frustrated' Castro-Menem Meeting Viewed

PY1607175993 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1626 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] Salvador, Brazil, 16 Jul (EFE)— Cuban Deputy Foreign Minister Ramon Sanchez Parodi said the frustrated meeting between Argentine President Carlos Menem, and Cuban President Fidel Castro was surrounded by an "exaggerated atmosphere of expectation."

Sanchez Parodi's statements seem aimed at Argentine diplomats, whose spokesmen are silent about the issue.

The Cuban deputy foreign minister added: "We cannot say it failed, because it was never agreed" that Castro and Menem would meet in private during the Third Ibero-American Summit in Salvador.

Sanchez Parodi declined to comment on the Argentine president's statement on the "lack of democracy" and the "unbearable 34-year old dictatorship" in Cuba.

"We prefer not to engage in a public debate about these issues because they are philosophical interpretations," he said.

He added that the Cuban Government "is prepared" to negotiate the debt of more than $1 billion contracted with Argentina.

Sanchez Parodi said that an agreement between the two countries "will strengthen economic and trade ties for their mutual benefit."

Uninvolved diplomatic sources reported that Carlos Menem and Fidel Castro were the only presidents attending the summit who did not shake hands.

The preparations for the meeting between Menem and Castro were plagued by a series of complications, with both Cuban and Argentine diplomats claiming that it was the other party that had requested the meeting.

Ramon Sanchez Parodi said Cuba thinks the document that will be approved by the presidents and chiefs of state attending the summit "is correct just as it is."

The document of the Third Ibero-American Summit, which consists in 73 articles in 19 pages, excludes explicit condemnation of the U.S. economic blockade on Cuba.

'Frustrated' Menem-Castro Meeting Part of 'Lengthy Dispute'

PY1707185293 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1938 GMT 16 Jul 93

["Special article for NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS" by Jose Maria Monzon]

[Text] Buenos Aires, 16 Jul (NA)—Over time the Cuban issue has almost become an obsession for the Argentine Government, to such an extent that its members are believed to see in the democratization banner an unreplaceable instrument to consolidate Carlos Menem's intended leadership in the region.

The frustrated meeting in Bahia and the repeated exchange of cutting remarks between Menem and Fidel Castro represented, anyhow, another chapter in the lengthy dispute between the two presidents, the final goal of which seems to be the quest for a position on the U.S. Government.

By adopting a tough position against Havana, President Menem intends to become the spokesman of the U.S. State Department policy, with which he would strengthen his image in Latin America.

Castro, however, knows these intentions very well and does not intend to grant the benefit of becoming his and Washington's interlocutor to a man who for four years has been dedicated to harrassing him in any international forum available. His maximum objective is the establishment of direct dialogue with the White House, or in any case the establishment of a bridge through a mediator a little more impartial than Carlos Menem.

The slam of the door by the Cuban president on the Argentine president's face at the Third Ibero-American Summit implies this message to Washington, while in the Latin American context it tries to strengthen more flexible and equitable positions such as those of Mexico, Colombia, and Venezuela.

But anyway, Menem's new attempt to talk with Castro does not seem to be a mission entrusted by Bill Clinton during their recent meeting, but rather a personal strategy of the Argentine president to gain some internal and foreign profit. Had the White House chief been the promoter of the meeting, the behavior of the Cuban leaders would be quire a different matter.

Castro not only had the pleasure of rebuffing the only Latin American president who so far had met with Clinton, but in the summit's final declaration he also achieved the inclusion of an unequivocal rejection of the economic blockade to the island by the United States.

It was precisely the Argentine delegation's reluctance to sign this rejection during previous negotiations that was one of the arguments used by Fidel Castro to reject the meeting. The initial negotiations in favor of the meeting were never acknowledged by either delegation.

From the anecdotal point of view it can be said that the frustrated Menem-Castro meeting has become regular practice in the history of international summits and have monopolized, because of the lack of bombastic issues, most of the attention of the accredited press.

Similar failures took place on the occasion of the inauguration of former Brazilian President Fernando Collor de Mello, in 1990, during the first Ibero-American Summit in Mexico in 1991, and during the celebrations in Spain of the 500th anniversary of the discovery of America, in 1992.

In any case, it is noteworthy how Argentine Foreign Ministry sources insistently and punctually publicize the possibility of a meeting when a summit of this type is near. The strategy is to always associate Menem's image with demands for the democratization of Cuba, even at the risk of being rebuffed, as happened in Bahia.

Those responsible for Menem's foreign policy do not seem willing to give up the issue, but on the contrary, they suspect that if they step aside others will profit sooner or later from this issue. They stated secretly: "The banners of freedom and democracy always provide some dividends to men with aspirations."

Menem, Castro Meet Accidentally in Elevator

PY1707011293 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0008 GMT 17 Jul 93

[By unidentified NA special correspondent]

[Text] Salvador, 16 Jul (NA)—Finally, and after so many moves and countermoves, and so many disagreements and clashes, Argentine President Carlos Menem and Cuban leader Fidel Castro met briefly here tonight after the closing session of the Third Ibero-American Summit. They even engaged in a brief, but ironic dialogue.

They met accidentally in the elevator that would take them to the exit of the Convention Center of this city, right after the closure of the summit.

Castro spotted Menem and patted him on the back saying: "Carlos, I was told you have been criticizing me, that you said bad things about me."

Looking up at Castro, who is taller, Menem responded: "No, Fidel, I did not criticize you, I criticized your regime."

With a quick comeback Castro said: "I was told about your criticism, I did not read it." Menem, in a reply that provoked laughter among those who were riding in the elevator, said: "You had better not read it." Menem and Castro then parted after exchanging friendly greetings.

It was Menem who personally reported on this meeting to Argentine reporters at the end of a news conference he gave here after the closure of the summit.

Spain's Gonzalez Proposes Economic Opening to Castro

PY1607123093 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0628 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] Salvador (Brazil), 16 Jul (EFE)—Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana reported that Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez today proposed to Cuban President

Fidel Castro the need for an economic opening on the island, which also would imply a political opening.

Gonzalez and Castro met at the end of the dinner that marked the closing of the first day of the Third Ibero-American Summit, to hold a meeting at the hotel where both are staying. The meeting lasted more than two hours. Solana and his Cuban counterpart, Roberto Robaina, and Cuban Vice President Ricardo Alarcon also were present.

Solana explained that after the meeting Gonzalez and Castro reviewed the international situation during most of the meeting, although he admitted that the Spanish prime minister reaffirmed the Spanish position favorable to an economic opening, which also will drag along political reform.

Solana said: "We find it important, also from the point of view of the suffering of Cuban citizens, that there be an economic opening that also will help solve some of the serious economic problems."

According to the minister, "a change has taken place at the summit concerning Cuba because there are more bilateral meetings than in Madrid and Guadalajara," which shows, in his opinion, that "Cuban economic problems are more serious and we are all concerned."

This crisis was discussed by the two presidents, who also analyzed the situation in Europe and exchanged points of view on UN reform projects.

Positions on the UN reform are not yet mature, according to the minister, who added that the United Nations is suffering "a credibility excess" because it is asked for more than it can give, and so its structure is insufficient.

Solana expressed "hope that the objective circumstances, which are known in Cuba and which we all know have changed in the world, undoubtedly must make (Castro) to always be more receptive to suggestions made in good will."

However, he warned that "no change will take place quickly. We must be tenacious, but this situation will surely be overcome gradually."

An important part of the conversation was related to international subjects, namely to the Third Ibero-American Summit issues that, according to Solana, will be "very dense from the political point of view so that the political coordination of countries that make up the Ibero-American community will take a very important consolidation step."

The meeting between Gonzalez and Castro, which ended early in the morning, was marked by a certain degree of "warmth," according to Solana, although Gonzalez's greeting at the beginning of the meeting was less emotional than previous meetings.

Spain's Gonzalez Discusses Ways To Promote Development

PY1607132993 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2139 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Text] Salvador (Brazil), 15 July (EFE)—Felipe Gonzalez, the Spanish head of government, spoke today in defense of democracy's values and underscored the importance of the Ibero-American Summit as a forum for achieving political agreement.

Gonzalez's address was preceded by a brief speech by King Juan Carlos, who stated that "social development is an individual right and a collective duty."

Before inviting Gonzalez to take the floor, King Juan Carlos told participants to this forum that they will always be able to count "on Spain's commitment to show solidarity with them."

Gonzalez for his part warned that "once democracy is achieved it does not mean that it is secured against collapse. On the contrary, it is consolidated step by step, year after year," as attested by several events that have taken place in the last few months in several parts of the world.

In light of this situation, Gonzalez urged Ibero-American chiefs of state and government to keep "a watchful eye because no country is immune to the resurgence of exclusive and intolerant attitudes."

Gonzalez underlined the need to try achieving "a community where dialogue and reconciliation will establish the necessary conditions for the full reestablishment of the rights of the individual and those of society as a whole."

An individual, in Gonzalez's view, "should be able to peacefully express his opinions without running the risk of suffering imprisonment, persecution, or exile."

Gonzalez praised the achievements of the Ibero-American Summit, which "has the role of a catalyst for integration rather than exclusion" and should focus "on what unites us, disregarding what separates us."

He especially referred to the key subject of this third summit meeting—an agenda for development, and noted that the current situation is propitious for starting to think about it.

Hence, he recalled that "democracy has been instituted among practically all of us, and it has become the greatest good that must be upheld when solving any crisis."

Likewise, "an appropriate economic substratum" has been established and "longstanding conflicts have been buried, thus making it possible for the region to generate high returns."

The Spanish head of government warned, however, that in order to attain development it is necessary that "we ourselves, as political leaders, give an ethical momentum [to this effort] to set a good example for our fellow countrymen."

"We must work for our fellow countrymen inspired by an unselfish spirit, with total openness, and transmit to the people, to everybody, the very essence of the political message—solidarity."

It is also necessary to leave aside "magic solutions based on the superiority of some over others or on the power of weapons," and to be convinced that the solution to problems depends, to a great extent, on our own effort and that one should not forget that "no country can aspire to save itself alone."

"We have learned to mistrust dogmatic models and to opt for policies inspired by common sense instead," he said, adding that "this greater reliability in our course

strengthens us" when we have to face the main challenges of development—the environment and the social issue.

In this respect, Gonzalez pointed out that creating jobs "becomes the most effective of social policies" because human beings are "now, as before, the indisputable target of any development policy," and every cooperation policy to foster development must be tailored to them.

The Ibero-American community has understood that this policy should not be limited to requesting aid and establishing financial objectives, but rather it should seek selective cooperation that includes technology transfer and a strengthening of institutional capacity.

On this issue, Gonzalez reiterated that in view of "Spain's status as a member of both the EC and the Ibero-American community," it is willing to forcefully transmit this idea to Europe.

Gonzalez concluded his speech by briefly mentioning the international economic crisis, which also affects Ibero-American countries, and urged participants to "have the courage of our convictions and take the necessary decisions even though it may grieve us to do so or think they may be unpopular."

Castro Congratulates Felipe Gonzalez on Recent Reelection

PY1607201593 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1656 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] Salvador, Brazil, 16 Jul (EFE)—During their meeting last night, Cuban President Fidel Castro congratulated Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez on his party's victory during the 6 June legislative elections.

Official sources that attended the meeting labelled it "useful and interesting" and asserted that the Cuban leader gave the impression of being "more flexible" than during the First Ibero-American Summit held in Guadalajara in 1991.

The sources stated that although Gonzalez and Castro's initial greeting was not as warm as on other occasions, the more-than two hour meeting during which they discussed all sorts of subjects helped to relax both parties.

The same sources said that, unlike in Guadalajara where Castro did not even remove his cap throughout the meeting, in Salvador he wore his uniform but without his cap and looking more relaxed during the meeting with Gonzalez.

Moreover, Castro did not dodge any subject. This allowed a more "constructive" dialogue although the sources warned that his willing attitude should not prompt to any political conclusions.

The Spanish delegation was surprised to hear Castro say he had closely followed the debate between the candidates for the Spanish presidency and expressed interest in the arguments used by Gonzalez to obtain his fourth consecutive victory.

Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina agreed with this, explaining that the meeting lasted so long because they discussed all sorts of subjects and because "it is difficult to stop them talking."

Robaina said that Castro did not ask Gonzalez for any help "because it was not a meeting for asking or for offering" and neither wanted "to negotiate anything," although he admitted that Gonzalez voiced concern over several issues.

The Cuban minister stated that Castro told Gonzalez about that great changes have taken place in Cuba, but complained that they have been unable to carry out many more. He compared his country with China where, in Robaina's opinion, fewer changes have taken place even though they have no economic embargo.

Robaina insisted that neither party made any request and asserted that "everyone can do more, but requests for greater effort should not be made to Spain."

Referring to the development of this Third Ibero-American Summit, the Cuban minister said that Cuba does not feel alone, it feels "more accompanied than ever." He added that nothing happened over Argentine President Carlos Menem, and denied having felt harassed or criticized in the speeches of the inaugural session.

Finally, asked about the length of the meeting which was labelled a respectful meeting like those held with other chiefs of state—although they were much shorter—Robaina said it was a meeting of "great respect due to the great communication" between the two leaders.

Castro-Gonzalez Meeting Described 'Useful'

PA1607184393 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1653 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] Salvador de Bahia, Brazil, 16 Jul (EFE)—Cuban President Fidel Castro congratulated Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez during their meeting last night for the victory of Gonzalez' party in the legislative elections held on 6 June. Official sources present during the interview described the meeting as "useful and interesting" and asserted that the Cuban leader appeared as "less rigid" than during the first Ibero-American Summit, held in Guadalajara in 1991.

Although Gonzalez' initial greeting with Castro was not as warm as on other occasions, the climate became relaxed on both sides during the conversation, which lasted over two hours and during which all types of subjects were touched upon. Unlike Guadalajara, where Castro wore his cap the entire time, in Salvador, although still in uniform, Castro took his cap off and appeared to be more comfortable during the interview, the sources said. In addition, Castro did not shrink from discussing any subject. This permitted a "more constructive" conversation, although the sources cautioned against extracting political conclusions from this disposition.

The Spanish delegation was surprised by Castro admitting both that he had monitored the debates between the candidates for president of the Spanish Government and his interest in the arguments that Gonzalez used to win his fourth consecutive election victory.

Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina, who concurred with this assessment, told a group of journalists that the Castro-Gonzalez meeting lasted that long because all pertinent subjects were discussed and "it was hard for the two of them to remain silent." Robaina said Castro did not ask Gonzalez for any assistance "because the meeting was not

intended to request or give assistance or negotiate anything. Robaina admitted, however, that Gonzalez voiced his concern over a number of subjects.

According to the Cuban minister, Castro told Gonzalez that many changes have been carried out in Cuba but that it has been impossible to carry out many more. Robaina compared the effort to China, where, he says, fewer changes have been made, and in addition without an economic embargo. Robaina stressed that there were no requests of any kind and that "everyone can do more, but Spain should not be asked to make an effort."

On the development of this Third Ibero-American Summit, Robaina said Cuba not only does not feel alone but "more in company than ever before." He said that nothing was agreed upon with Argentine President Carlos Menem. Robaina denied that the Cuban delegation felt harassed or criticized in the opening speeches.

Finally, asked about the duration of the interview between Castro and Gonzalez, an interview described as courteous, as were the meetings with other leaders—which were much shorter—Robaina said the meeting was "courteous and this courtesy was augmented by the high degree of communication" between the two presidents.

Castro Meets With Bahia Governor, Salvador Mayor

FL1907133993 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] Before returning to Cuba, Fidel met yesterday with Bahia Governor Antonio Carlos Magalhaes, who held a dinner in his honor. According to Bahian media, the Cuban president explained that he had returned to Salvador, Bahia, to make a brief thank you visit to Governor Magalhaes, Salvador mayor Lidice da Mata, and other friends. Bahia's media carried statements by Fidel, who did not discard the possibility of future business dealings between Cuba and the northeastern Brazilian state of Bahia, mainly in the sector of tourism.

Honduran, Salvadoran Presidents Discuss Integration

PY1607183893 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1703 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Text] Salvador, Bahia, Brazil, 15 Jul (EFE)—Honduran President Rafael Callejas and Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani today discussed, among other issues, Central American integration and coffee problems, a product exported by the two countries.

Official sources told EFE that the two presidents, who meet frequently in Central America, reviewed regional integration.

They also discussed measures adopted by the Latin American coffee producers who reduced production by 20 percent in an attempt to improve prices following a significant drop in the past two years.

The sources also told EFE that the two presidents agreed on the need for producing countries to coordinate and draft a new coffee agreement to replace the one that expired three years ago, in which the consuming countries participated.

The Honduran and Salvadoran presidents also evaluated the integration progress that officially began in Central America in 1991.

These two nations, in addition to Nicaragua and Guatemala, are making more progress with more ambitious goals than the other two integration partners; Costa Rica and Panama.

Cristiani was the last Latin American president to arrive, early this morning, in Salvador for the Third Ibero-American Summit of chiefs of state and governments today and tomorrow in this city.

Honduran, Spanish Chiefs of State Meet

PY1607163093 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1430 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] Salvador, Brazil, 15 Jul (EFE)—Official sources reported that Honduras and Spain did not discuss the subject of banana exports to Europe during the meeting held between Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez and Honduran President Rafael Callejas.

Honduran Foreign Minister Mario Carias Zapata told EFE that despite the concern of the banana-producing countries over the restrictions on their exports to the EC, the subject was not discussed by the presidents, given that it was not included in the summit agenda.

Gonzalez and Callejas met within the framework of the Third Ibero-American Summit of chiefs of state and government, which concludes today in Salvador after two days of sessions.

Before the media, the president of Honduras—where bananas are one of its main source of hard currency—harshly criticized the EC import system applied since 1 July to banana imports, and he added that such a measure goes against international trade practices.

Latin American banana producers who sell their produce to the EC (Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Ecuador, Colombia, and Venezuela) say the new EC measure causes great losses to them because it reduced their level of exports by 40 percent compared with last year.

However, the EC maintains that the system is balanced and that it can increase the Latin American quota, while it guarantees part of the European market to bananas produced in the Canary Islands (Spain), and Madeira (Portugal), and the former colonies of France and the United Kingdom in the Caribbean, Africa, and the Pacific countries (ACP).

Costa Rican Foreign Minister Bernd Niehaus told EFE that although the banana issue was not included on the summit agenda, which in general is dedicated to social development, the problem would be examined in bilateral meetings.

According to Honduran Foreign Minister Carias, Gonzalez and Callejas mainly spoke about cooperation during their meeting.

The two presidents, Carias said, congratulated each other for the implementation of several joint projects in which Spain is helping Honduras.

Callejas and Gonzalez also agreed on the importance of the summit's principal subject—Ibero-American countries' social problems as result of the shortcomings suffered by these countries in the fields of jobs, sanitation, and education, Carias reported.

"This meeting has attempted to stress these problems and the need to promote development," the Honduran foreign minister said.

Castro 'Willing To Negotiate' With United States

PY1607213293 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1854 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] Salvador (Brazil), 16 July (EFE)—Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez stated today that reestablishing democracy in Cuba "is possible" and "this is a propitious moment to do so."

Gonzalez told a group of journalists in Salvador, Bahia State, where the Third Ibero-American Summit ends today, that Cuba's democratization "is a process that must begin."

Cuban President Fidel Castro then told another group of journalists that he was never afraid of a coup d'etat in Cuba.

"I never even thought about it," Castro said categorically.

Argentine President Carlos Menem has stated that his disagreement and frustrated meeting with his Cuban counterpart were because the Cuban Government imposed "conditions" that he could not accept.

Menem remarked that "there were several conditions I could not accept because I cannot remain silent. I must demand democracy for Cuba. It is a pity that it could not be done now. Some other time, "perhaps." [quotation marks as received]

Menem's offer to mediate between Cuba and the United States to solving the conflict between the two countries—especially the U.S. trade embargo with that Caribbean island— was rejected by the Cuban Government.

Castro, Gonzalez, and Menem spoke while strolling around in the picturesque colonial neighborhood of Pelourinho in this tropical city in north-eastern Brazil.

As the summit's morning sessions drew to a close, Castro termed U.S. President Bill Clinton "an upright and peace-loving man."

Castro made pointed references to Menem's offer, noting that he is willing to negotiate with the United States and does not need any mediator.

Castro stressed that Cuba will neither negotiate its revolution nor the socialist system introduced in that island in 1959.

Spain's Gonzalez on Cuba, UN Reform, Bosnia

PY1707174993 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0140 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Text] Salvador (Brazil), 16 Jul (EFE)—Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez stated today, 16 July, that Fidel Castro is "fully aware" of the fact that all member countries of the Ibero- American community want Cuba to develop toward democracy and to open markets so as to remain on an equal footing with them.

After the news conference held after the closing of the Third Ibero-American Summit of chiefs of state and government, which ended today in the Brazilian town of Salvador, Gonzalez returned to Spain.

Although he said that he was speaking with "extreme prudence," Gonzalez said he has the impression that Cuban President Fidel Castro's attitude now is more flexible than two years ago, which he justified because of the negative development of the economic situation on the island.

According to Gonzalez, the Cuban leader has demonstrated these past few days a greater degree of understanding on the need to make changes in Cuba, and has talked with several presidents with a degree of communication higher than in previous meetings.

Felipe Gonzalez added that "it would be very good for Cuba to start joining the Latin American trend where there is a diversity of governments" that "accept some rules of the game that allow the implementation of subregional integration processes and a forum of agreement with little friction. I hope Cuba will be fully incorporated into that," he said.

Concerning the point against the embargo included in the final declaration of the summit, Gonzalez feels that "it is very clear because there are no other situations like that, but it is an issue which, if not treated politely, not all countries will agree to."

"There are countries that believe that helping end the blockade on Cuba should also imply that Cuba should stop helping and should begin an opening process reasonable for all," he said.

Felipe Gonzalez regretted the excessive "focusing" at the summits on the Cuban issue, which he justified because of the "exception" it supposes, and stressed his opposition to the economic embargo, and also against the Cuban economic model.

Gonzalez said: "Those who plant vegetables on their own receive more profit than if they do for the state."

He also referred to the debate within the working sessions of this "summit," and particularly, to the analysis of the role of the state, with the need that Ibero-American countries find a "common barometer that will measure the degree of effort" made by each in social policy, the true role of the state, in his judgement.

Concerning the debate on how often these summits should be held, the Spanish prime minister said the foreign ministers should at least meet annually if a decision is made on a summit of chiefs of state and government every two years.

However, he warned that the mechanisms of the "summit" must be exploited for the meeting of Ibero-American nations if necessary to jointly study some issues, as for instance, the UN reform. He predicted that in a future debate on the UN reform these countries will play an important role.

He said that the United Nations is having difficulties because of a "credibility excess" which forces it to assume the role provided for by its charter, but the financing of which has not been foreseen, which prompts substantial expenditures by countries that assume operations on behalf and at the cost of the United Nations, which is what happened with Spain in the former Yugoslavia.

Concerning this conflict, Gonzalez reaffirmed his doubts on whether the weapons embargo against Bosnia-Herzegovina should be lifted because of the consequences should the conflict be extended to Kosovo and Macedonia, although he admitted that personally he thinks the right to self-defense of the Bosnian Muslims is just.

Ibero-American Declaration Seen as 'Setback' for Cuba

PY1607222893 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2110 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] Salvador (Brazil), 16 Jul (EFE)—The final declaration of the Third Ibero-American Summit of Chiefs of State and Government, which closed here on 16 July, frustrated Cuban President Fidel Castro's attempt to obtain open condemnation of the U.S. embargo against his country.

In just four of its 200 lines, the declaration merely "takes note" that other international forums have focused on "the need to eliminate the unilateral application for political purposes of economic and trade measures by any state against another."

The phrase "takes note" seems to imply that the Ibero-American community does not even endorse such a "need." This represents a setback for the Cuban Government, which was seeking a resounding "condemnation" of the U.S. embargo.

The document was not read in full during the closing session of the summit because Argentine President Carlos Menem interrupted Brazilian diplomat Flavio Perry, the coordinator general of the conference, saying that it was a waste of time reading the text of a document that was known to all of them, having been negotiated for several months by the respective foreign ministers.

Menem's proposal was seconded by everyone, including Fidel Castro with whom Menem engaged in resounding contradictions and disputes throughout the summit.

Menem said: "At least Fidel and I agree on something."

The Cuban leader responded with an inaudible phrase amid widespread laughter, to which Menem replied: "The sum of the products remains the same."

Spanish Foreign Minister Comments on Changes in Cuba

PA1607165893 Paris AFP in Spanish 1444 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] Salvador de Bahia, Brazil, 16 Jul (AFP)—Spanish Foreign Affairs Minister Javier Solana has stated that there were changes with regard to Cuba at the Third Ibero-American Presidents Summit, which will end on 16 July in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil. "There have been more bilateral interviews with Cuba than there were in Guadalajara and Madrid (where the two previous meetings were held)," said Solana during a meeting with Spanish journalists.

According to him, in light of the worsening problems on that Caribbean island, there is interest among Ibero-Americans and Cubans in finding a solution to the problems and the will to cooperate so that they are overcome. Solana said there is greater flexibility among the parts and that some "minor modifications" may be perceived on Cuba's side throughout the current summit. However, he did not specify what those changes might be.

Cuban President Fidel Castro and Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez met on the night of 15 July for over two hours. That was, up to now, the longest meeting held by Castro with any of his Ibero-American counterparts. Solana said the meeting was friendly and that it can be said that Castro paid more "attention" to Spain's positions. Gonzalez reiterated to Castro the Spanish Government's favorable position for Cuba to introduce economic changes that may later lead to political transformations, revealed the Spanish foreign minister.

Spain is against maintaining the economic blockade imposed by the United States on Cuba, but it maintains that an economic opening is essential as a preliminary step for a political opening.

Cuba Seeks Brazil's Help To Replace Gasoline With Alcohol

PY1607175593 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1559 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] Salvador (Brazil), 16 Jul (EFE)—According to business sources, Cuba seeks Brazil's cooperation to exploit the great sugar cane surplus and produce alcohol to replace the gasoline that is increasingly scarce on the island.

Cuban President Fidel Castro agreed with Brazilian business leaders to send a commercial delegation, including representatives of the chemical industry and the alcohol production industry, to visit Cuba in the near future.

Cuba is interested in studying the establishment of fuel alcohol, with which some 4.5 million vehicles are driven in Brazil where the system was widely developed in the past decade, although it was then affected by the drop in petroleum prices and the increase in the cost of alcohol made from sugar cane.

Sources from the National Confederation of Industries (CNI) of Brazil told EFE that the commercial delegation's visit was announced during a meeting between CNI Chairman Albano Franco and the Cuban leader.

The meeting, which lasted only some 20 minutes, was held at midnight, local time, between Thursday and Friday.

According to sources consulted by EFE, Castro also expressed much interest in investments by Brazilian businessmen in Cuba.

The CNI chairman promised to negotiate the sending of a delegation but so far neither the date nor the delegation members have been set.

Cuba tried to participate in a conference of Ibero-American businessmen held in Salvador parallel to the Third Ibero-American Summit of chiefs of state and of government that will end today after two working sessions.

Conference secretariat sources pointed out that Cuban participation was not possible because of the lack of a delegation of businessmen established on the island.

Brazilian Commentator Assesses Cuban Domestic Situation

PY1607184393 Sao Paulo Rede Bandeirantes Television in Portuguese 2326 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Commentary by Newton Carlos]

[Text] The final document of the Third Ibero-American Summit will condemn any economic blockade that was not approved by the United Nations, in other words by the international community, as is the case of Cuba.

In a surprisingly short speech, as well as in his private meetings, Fidel Castro called for Latin American solidarity with his country. He was also pressured to democratize Cuba.

New developments show that the Cuban domestic situation is getting much worse. It has been reported that there was a rebellion in a small town near Havana, and that special Army troops were used against civilians. This followed the machine-gunning of a boat that came to pick up refugees.

Cuba currently has much more serious problems at home than abroad. For the first time, the Cuban regime has used Army troops against civilians.

Castro's Health, Physical Condition 'Visibly Deteriorated'

PA1607153693 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1634 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Text] Salvador de Bahia (Brazil), 15 Jul (EFE)—The health and physical condition of Cuban President Fidel Castro appeared to be visibly deteriorated during the Third Ibero-American Summit that started in Brazil on 15 July.

Diplomats who accompanied their presidents to meetings with Castro and people who have seen him go in and out of the hotel in Salvador de Bahia where the leaders are staying, agreed that the 67 years are quite noticeable on the Cuban leader.

A Colombian reporter ironically said: "What happens is that we all have the image of the young and strong Fidel from revolutionary posters."

Those who saw him get off the plane that brought him to the summit on the evening of 14 July noticed that he experienced some difficulty in coming down the plane's steps. He never let go of the handrail.

Sources from the Cuban delegation here have stressed that their president's health is good.

Castro Discusses Integration, U.S. Relations

FL1907012593 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] Today, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro met with Brazilian and foreign journalists who covered the Third Ibero-American Summit, and he analyzed several topics of world interest and, more specifically, Latin America. The Cuban president praised Brazil's role in hosting the Ibero-American Summit of heads of state and government, which analyzed development with an emphasis on social concerns as its main topic. Moreover, Fidel spoke of Brazil's positive attitude in extending relations with Cuba, despite U.S. pressures, and he pointed out Brazil's importance in seeking Latin American integration.

With regard to Latin America, the head of the Cuban Revolution stated that the world of the future will belong to great political and economic giants, adding that in order for this region to survive under such conditions, it needs to become one of those giants by way of integration. Fidel characterized the summits as an excellent tool in the rapprochement and unity of Latin America. Castro also highlighted the paragraph in the final resolution which opposes the U.S. blockade of Cuba.

In answering a question on U.S. relations, Fidel reiterated the Cuban position of beginning negotiations on a basis of equality, adding, however, that the initiative for normalization of relations does not apply to Cuba because of its status as an assaulted, blockaded country. For that reason, he added, the first thing the United States must do is stop its criminal action and lift the blockade; this includes putting an end to its pressure to prevent the entrance of food and medicine into Cuba.

Castro Insists Cuba 'Freest Country' in World

PY1807015193 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 17 Jul 93 p 10

[Interview with Cuban President Fidel Castro by special correspondents Rogelio Lopez and Oscar Silva]

[Text] Salvador, Bahia, Brazil—In a conversation with ULTIMA HORA, Cuban President Fidel Castro said he has never imagined a coup in his country. He also said Cuba does not even have a point of comparison with Paraguay, because his country is "the freest country in the world."

One of the topics discussed by Castro was former President Alfredo Stroessner, about whom he said he "never felt any sympathy." He also said Cuba lives in real peace with the support of the people, adding that this is not the way life was in Paraguay. He said: "There was never a liberating revolution in Paraguay."

[ULTIMA HORA] When will there be a truly free Cuba?

[Castro] Cuba is the freest country in the world. I have always maintained this, and there are many ways to prove it. In my country there is freedom for all those who really love Cuba. We have a good health system, good education, and many countries of the world envy us for that. The idea that Cuba is not free is U.S. propaganda.

[ULTIMA HORA] Are you not afraid that your regime may end up like that of Alfredo Stroessner of Paraguay?

[Castro] No sir, there is no comparison; Cuba is the freest country in the world, and what occurred in Paraguay does not occur in free countries. Stroessner was authoritarian, and there was no freedom in Paraguay. You can ask in my country if the same situation prevails. Excuse me for insisting, but Cuba is the freest country in the world.

[ULTIMA HORA] Have you ever thought that a coup might overthrow you?

[Castro] I have never imagined such a thing. To think that something like that could occur in my country would be a waste of time. The Cuban Government has the entire support of the people, and it would be very difficult for someone to overthrow a government that gives freedom to every citizen. The Cuban people are very mature; they know what they are doing and what they want. This is why we remain firm in the face of constant pressure from those who are supposedly in power.

[ULTIMA HORA] What do you think of what Stroessner did in Paraguay?

[Castro] I believe you can judge him better than anyone else. Make an evaluation to see if he gave you freedom, education, and health, and then you can reach your conclusions on the situations in Cuba and in Paraguay. You lived under the Stroessner regime, and you know better than anyone else what he was like. You, however, did not live in Cuba, and therefore you cannot be aware of how we live. This is the situation that creates a false image about my country. Paraguayans are those who should talk about Paraguay and Stroessner.

[ULTIMA HORA] I asked what you thought of him and his regime.

[Castro] I was never sympathetic toward Stroessner. I was never interested in meeting him, and this is why I am not familiar with his way of governing. But I can say that I am familiar with the Paraguayan situation. I have talked with General Rodriguez, and I know very well the suffering of the people under the previous regime. Please, never compare that Paraguayan period with the Cuban period.

[ULTIMA HORA] You think in a different manner than he does, but you have almost the same years as the Stroessner regime.

[Castro] With the support of the people, however. All of Cuba is satisfied with its government because it is a popular government. Fidel Castro has the support of the people and governs with that support. That is more than enough.

[ULTIMA HORA] Stroessner also used to say he had the support of the people, but he always held fraudulent elections.

[Castro] Excuse me, could you tell me what media you belong to?

[ULTIMA HORA] From the daily ULTIMA HORA, Paraguay.

[Castro] Have you ever been in Cuba? Do you know what Cuba is? Do you know what a revolution is? We conducted a revolution in Cuba, and Paraguay has never had a revolution. There was a president who only left misery. You are only now coming out of it. I invite you to visit my land, and then we will talk. Do not let yourself be carried away by the propaganda of those who are supposedly in power.

Castro Comments on Neoliberal Policies

PA1807014793 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Text] Cuban President Fidel Castro said, in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil, that the recently ended Third Ibero-American Summit proves there is a beginning of disenchantment in the region for neoliberal policies. During a meeting with the media in Salvador, Bahia, Castro said that even though we cannot speak of a defeat of neoliberalism, the truth is that the developed capitalist countries, precursors of that policy, are confronting a serious economic crisis that has no solutions.

The Cuban president stressed that even though there are signs of improvement in some countries in the region, this has occurred at a tremendous social cost, and proof of this is that no one at the summit could talk about development. Castro said the Brazilians were the only ones who brought problems such as education, health, culture, and unemployment to the conference table. During his speech at the summit, Fidel Castro said there is talk of the beginning of a decade of hope in Latin America because some indexes show some improvement; however, he warned that no one should be fooled by this because never before have there been so many poor and downtrodden in the region.

Castro Fears No Coup; Urges Latin Solidarity

PY1807000793 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 17 Jul 93 p 2

[Text] Salvador, Bahia—During the Third Ibero-American "Summit" that ended here yesterday, Cuban leader Fidel Castro talked repeatedly with Paraguayan President Andres Rodriguez. Consulted by the Paraguayan press, the Cuban President ruled out the possibility that he could suffer an end like that of former dictator Alfredo Stroessner.

"I have never feared a coup such as that conducted against Stroessner. Nor have I imagined that it could take place," the controversial Cuban leader said. He took advantage of his participation in the summit of 21 heads of state and government to negotiate for the export of fuel alcohol as a substitute for petroleum byproduct fuels, of which Cuba receives a very scant supply.

Castro said that between him and Stroessner "there is a difference, and it is difference between one who is a revolutionary and one who is not. They are two different personalities, two different individuals, two different lives, and two different destinies."

Castro also expressed his hope that "Paraguay and the other sister Latin American nations understand that it is not with hunger and misery that our convictions will be defeated."

Regarding his successive conversations with General Andres Rodriguez, he said: "I talked a great deal with your president. He is a sincere individual who wants the best for our countries."

According to comments made by Rodriguez, the Paraguayan Government's position of not maintaining diplomatic relations with Cuba remains, however, unchanged, unless an opening up of the Castro regime occurs.

Castro, who since his arrival has received demonstrations of support as well as street protests, said he has been in power for 34 years "because the people want it." He also said "there is democracy" in his country.

He added that his regime is the product of a revolution. He added: "Cuba had important revolutions. Paraguay, however, has never had revolutions."

When Paraguayan Foreign Minister Alexis Frutos Vaesken was asked to comment on Castro's remarks that the UN

"should be democratized," he said: "The current Cuban situation is very difficult, and Cuba has a policy that its president must defend and make known in all international forums. Asking for the democratization of the UN seems to me something unusual, but it is one more request, in addition to all the others made here."

He added: "In any case, before Castro makes that request he should be concerned about democratizing Cuba. Cuba must be democratized, and then we can talk about democratizing other things."

The Cuban leader, however, does not seem to want to change his position. He said: "The thing is, we are committed to our people and to our principles, and just as we are asked for things, we also want the others to give their solidarity to Cuba."

In answer to a question, Castro said that he in no way had a complex over the situation of his country. He said: "I am not embarrassed in any way before the other presidents. I see no reason for it. I am at ease because I know that what I am doing has a goal, an objective, which is the well-being of the Cuban people."

Asked to what point Cuba could bear the economic blockade, he said: "This is why I say that with these difficulties, we are struggling bitterly to face the problems created for us by the U.S. power."

He added: "We are expecting solidarity with the other countries in emerging in good shape from the difficult situation we are facing. But you can rest assured that we will be facing this adversity with our own options."

He concluded by saying that Cuba, as no other country in the world, "is in a position to provide a privileged geographical location for appropriate exploitation."

Castro Hopes for End to U.S. Trade Embargo

PY1707230693 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2050 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Text] Sao Paulo (Brazil), 17 Jul (EFE)—Cuban President Fidel Castro stated here today, 17 July, that an end to the U. S. trade embargo on Cuba "would not be easy."

Castro added: "The embargo is a heavy thing, and it will not fall easily." He feels it is difficult to know whether U.S. President Bill Clinton will be interested in starting negotiations to ease bilateral relations.

Regarding Clinton's position on the subject, Castro said that "one would have to be clairvoyant to know what it is," adding that "these love affairs cannot be one-sided." The phrase elicited laughter among the group of reporters to whom Castro was addressing these brief remarks.

Commenting on the timid resolution adopted by the Third Ibero-American Summit of heads of state and government, which conveyed disagreement with the economic blockade, Castro said that this group of countries "should have stated its opposition to the embargo a long time ago, although they now appear to be more strongly against it."

After attending the Third Ibero-American Summit, which was held in the city of Salvador, Bahia, Castro traveled today to Sao Paulo to attend the inaugural ceremony of the permanent headquarters of the Latin American Parliament (Parlatino).

Apart from Castro, five other Central American and seven South American heads of state attended the brief inaugural ceremony and a luncheon hosted at the Bandeirantes Palace—the seat of the Sao Paulo State government—by Sao Paulo Governor Luiz Antonio Fleury.

Castro stated that "our democracy is better than any other, and I have my reasons to believe that no one has the right to tell others what to do," adding that each country must sovereignly choose its own system of government.

Asked about a possible meeting with Argentine President Carlos Menem, Castro said the meeting was not held because "the agenda was too busy," adding that we exchanged friendly greetings, but did not sit and talk." [no opening quotation marks as received]

During the inaugural ceremony at the cylindrical Parlatino building, Castro and Menem exchanged their first "hello" after three days of mingling in the same places.

Editorial on Castro Attempt To Keep ULC Chief From Summit

PY1707192193 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 16 Jul 93 p 8

[Editorial: "Another of Castro's Fantasies"]

[Text] On the eve of the Third Ibero-American Summit in Salvador, Brazil, in which presidents and foreign ministers are to participate in order to sign the summit's declaration, Fidel Castro submitted a charge to Interpol and the Spanish and Brazilian Governments that Carlos Alberto Montaner, president of the Cuban Liberal Union Party (ULC) who gave several news conferences in Buenos Aires at the end of June, is a "terrorist" who had indicated that he would attend the summit's sessions. In view of his role as a Cuban political leader in exile, there was nothing in particular about his attending the summit, as he has done at other meetings.

The fable cooked up by Havana's secret services responded to a sole purpose: To prevent Montaner's presence in Salvador by accusing him of being a terrorist and thus suppress, through his lack of participation, the opinion on the current Cuban situation that he most assuredly would have outlined. During his long residence in Madrid, Montaner established Spanish citizenship; he is widely known in Europe and Latin America for his fight against the communist dictatorship.

In his latest book, the "Eve of the End: Fidel Castro and the Cuban Revolution," published recently in Buenos Aires, he vigorously outlines what he understands as the irreversible course of a process that is about to conclude.

In a letter to the Spanish ambassador to Brazil, he says: "I have regularly practiced journalism for the past 25 years and I have never had any links with terrorism. Castro wants to silence me." He requested that the Spanish Foreign Ministry communicate with Itamaraty to inform it "of my status as a peaceful citizen that respects the law."

After using terrorism as a prop for 30 years, Castro professes that he is no longer [a terrorist] and that others are.

Castro-Menem Summit, Once Expected, Never Held

PY1707180193 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0816 GMT 17 Jul 93

[By Alejandro Mendez]

[Text] Salvador de Bahia (Brazil), 17 Jul (EFE)—Cuban leader Fidel Castro has avoided meeting with Argentine President Carlos Menem in Salvador de Bahia. Castro flatly rejected Menem's offer to mediate between Havana and Washington.

The intrigues, in which diplomats from the two countries have been involved these days, ended on 16 July, and the eagerly expected meeting between Menem and Castro during the Third Ibero-American Summit of heads of state and government, which had initially been expected, was not held.

Argentines and Cubans continue to disagree over the agenda of the presidential meeting, hinting at long negotiations if the interest continues that both sides claim to have in reaching an agreement. Diplomatic sources summarized the situation by saying that a meeting between Argentine Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella and Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina merely served the purpose of one minister taking note of the other minister's stance.

Cuban sources stressed that Castro is willing to meet with Menem under the condition of discussing all issues of bilateral interest, with the exception of any type of mediation before the United States. The same sources emphasized that the United States itself prefers to hold direct talks with the Cuban Government. Under these conditions, the Cuban president offered the Argentine president a meeting in Havana or Buenos Aires.

Menem offered to mediate between Havana and Washington during his meeting with U.S. President Bill Clinton in late June. Menem's offer and the publicity surrounding Menem's possible meeting with Castro aroused the suspicions of the Cubans who suspect that the Argentine president is seeking political gains.

A few days before and during the "summit" discussions, Argentines and Cubans emphatically stressed that it was the other side that had requested the presidential meeting. Cuban Deputy Foreign Minister Ramon Sanchez Parodi noted the "atmosphere of exaggerated expectation" surrounding the meeting. Sanchez Parodi's remarks seemed to hint at the Argentine diplomacy.

Fidel Castro on 15 July met with Chilean President Patricio Aylwin barely a few meters away from where Carlos Menem was talking with his Colombian counterpart, Cesar Gaviria. According to witnesses of the activities of the Ibero-American presidents, Castro and Menem were the only "summit" participants who did not shake hands.

Menem's successive remarks favoring Cuba's "democratization" and his hints at Fidel Castro's "dictatorship" have also prompted controversies within the Rio Group, a Latin American forum for political agreement. According to the unanimous opinion of people monitoring the Rio Group meetings, Mexico, Brazil, and Colombia are the countries that have firmly opposed Argentine officials' remarks.

The Argentines are also interested in Cuba settling a $1 billion debt, including principal and interests. This debt involves loans that Buenos Aires granted to Havana in the early 1970's. The Cubans stressed that they are willing to reach an agreement, but in exchange for enhancing bilateral trade with new loan facilities, to which the Argentines do not seem to be inclined. Some diplomatic circles speculate that each side is establishing conditions that are unacceptable for the other side in order to find a graceful solution to the issue.

Further on Castro Statements to Journalists

FL1707172093 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1602 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Excerpts] Before leaving for Sao Paulo, where he will participate in the inauguration of the headquarters of the Latin American Parliament, our Commander in Chief Fidel Castro held a profound dialogue with Cuban journalists in Salvador, Bahia. [passage omitted including previously filed material]

No one needs help in order to fight a crime, said Fidel Castro, and the embargo is a crime. [Castro added]: But in addition to this, the story of what imperialism has done in this hemisphere is (?recent), as is the story of Cuba's extraordinary merit. Cuba has struggled for 30 years, defending the trenches of the hemisphere's independence. [passage omitted including previously filed material]

President Castro affirmed today in his talks with Cuban journalists: The Third Ibero-American Summit Conference showed that disappointment in connection with neoliberalism has already begun. Castro explained that one cannot yet speak of the defeat of that aggressive economic current; however, one thing is very real: The champions of neoliberalism, the industrialized countries, are in an economic crisis that is serious and without a solution.

Fidel expressed the opinion that the fact that problems such as education, health, culture, and unemployment were discussed at the summit indicates that disappointment with neoliberalism has begun to gain ground. [passage omitted including previously filed material]

Castro Expresses 'Satisfaction' With Private Talks

FL1707163093 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1401 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Text] Our Commander in Chief Fidel Castro today expressed his satisfaction with the talks he has had over the past two days with the heads of state participating in the Third Ibero-American Summit, and affirmed that all the talks were friendly. Fidel talked to a group of Cuban journalists who covered the summit, which was held in Salvador, Bahia. This summit ended yesterday with a final declaration that amply stressed the topic of development with emphasis on social matters.

During his stay in Salvador, the Cuban leader met privately with the presidents of Mexico, Colombia, Chile, Brazil, and Spain, in addition to talking, in one way or another, with the rest of the rulers attending the summit.

Fidel said that all the conversations were friendly. He said he was very pleased with the exchanges that took place. He said: I talked to everyone—at every corner and in every assembly hall.

Regarding the meetings he had, President Fidel Castro expressed his satisfaction with his meetings with Felipe Gonzalez, head of the Spanish Government, and Carlos Salinas de Gortari, president of Mexico. Fidel said: I talked to all of them, at every corner and in every assembly hall, during recesses. He added that relations that were quite cordial had managed to be established.

Our leader commented: That is why, with regard to the idea of holding the summits every two years, I said I thought they should be held annually, because this is a movement that should not be allowed to cool down. Castro said he felt Latin American gatherings are excellent instruments for rapprochement and unity in Latin America.

Fidel added that, in his opinion, Spain and Portugal understand perfectly well the advisability of working for the cohesion of this continent. Shortly after his dialogue with the press, he left for Sao Paulo to attend the inauguration of the headquarters of the Latin American Parliament.

In Salvador, Bahia, our Commander in Chief explained that the blockade was much discussed at the Third Ibero-American Summit's foreign ministers' meeting, and that agreement had been reached on a good paragraph. Fidel mentioned the subject during the meeting with Cuban journalists—during which he recalled that after his speech, in which he asked for solidarity for Cuba, Bolivian President Jaime Paz Zamora had supported him, although he [not further identified]) said, among other things, something to the effect that it was necessary to help him [not further identified], which was a bit mysterious.

Fidel said: I have read quite a number of commentaries on Paz Zamora's position at that moment, and I think he showed courage in making such statements in a unipolar and hegemonic world.

Fidel continued: However, I do not think help is needed. No one needs it so as to fight a crime, and the blockade is a crime, and there is an arsenal of arguments to be used against it in a debate.

Cuban Foreign Minister Critiques Statement

FL1607151193 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1404 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina has expressed his satisfaction with the results of the Third Ibero-American Summit scheduled to conclude today in Salvador de Bahia. In reference to the inclusion in the summit's final declaration of a paragraph, which alludes to the unfairness of the U.S. blockade, Robaina pointed out that the statement will not be written as Cuba would have liked. However, he added, the fact that the issue was included is already a victory.

Likewise, Robaina asserted that Cuba supports all aspects contained in the summit's final declaration and that the document's only fault is trying to cover too many issues. Robaina added he would have preferred the document to be shorter and more powerful.

Regarding regional unity, Robaina pointed out that economic integration is not easy because the economies of Latin American countries are very independent.

Cuba's Robaina Stresses Blockade Preventing Change

LD1607100393 Madrid RNE-1 Radio Network in Spanish 0900 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] The blockade imposed by the United States on Cuba has become one of the main issues at the Ibero-American summit in Salvador de Bahia. In the Brazilian city the heads of state and government of the 21 countries attending the conference are going to sign a declaration condemning the use of the economic embargo as a political weapon. During the early hours of this morning, Fidel Castro and Felipe Gonzalez had a meeting lasting two hours. According to statements by Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina, at the meeting the Spanish side was informed that the blockade was preventing them from carrying out greater reforms than those already being undertaken:

[Begin Robaina recording] We informed Felipe to what extent we are carrying out those changes [words indistinct]. We even informed him that we would like to be able to make more changes, something we cannot do to the same extent because we are operating under a lot of pressure. It is not a question of us being asked for changes and we decided what changes we (?would make). Of course, when you speak to Cuba now there has to be an in-depth conversation on economic matters which, in the first place, require a lot of information. It is not that Felipe was sitting down to ask us for economic changes in exchange for other things. What we explained to him was what we are doing and we explained to him [word indistinct]. We even explained why we have not been able to do anything else. [end recording]

Castro Discusses Clinton Administration, Exiles

PA1607053093 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0439 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Excerpts] Salvador de Bahia (Brazil), 16 Jul (EFE)—Cuban President Fidel Castro refused to explain what issues he would discuss during the talks he began on the evening of 15 July with Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez. [passage omitted]

Asked if he had received any message from the Cuban Human Rights Commission led by Elizardo Sanchez, who recently toured the European capitals, Castro told the media: "I have received no messages from any dissident."

When asked whether he would talk with Cuban exiles, the Cuban president said: "That depends on who he is. If he is a terrorist, a traitor, a mercenary, or a CIA agent, I would not be very willing."

As for the expectations created by the new U.S. President, he stated: "We have nothing special against this administration, but we do not see any sign that there will be change, either. We do know, however, that the previous administrations were very hostile."

Castro reaffirmed his position on U.S. demands for lifting the embargo and recalled: "They have spent 30 years establishing conditions but have always changed them."

When asked by reporters when the time for change would come to Cuba, Fidel Castro said: "We made the first change 30 years ago" and commented on the Cuban exile issue by questioning the number of Mexicans and Dominicans who live in the United States.

He admitted that many exiles left for economic reasons. Prior to heading for his meeting with Gonzalez, Castro sent greetings to the Galicians.

Cuba's Castro Wins 'Important Victory' Over Trade Sanctions

PY1707025893 Rio de Janeiro TVE Television in Portuguese 0100 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Passages within quotation marks are recorded comments by Cuban President Fidel Castro; place and date not given—Castro speaks in Spanish with simultaneous translation into Portuguese]

[Text] The Salvador letter contains a pact for the defense of democracy and human rights, and seeks to fight unemployment, misery, and illiteracy. The document ends with expressions of support for Cuba by the 21 Ibero-American countries. These countries oppose the U.S. trade blockade against Fidel Castro's regime.

Cuban President Fidel Castro had an important victory toward freeing Cuba from the U.S. trade sanctions. The countries attending the summit in Salvador decided to break the economic blockade, which is suffocating the Cubans. Reacting to this decision, Fidel Castro today asserted that Cuba is open to investment from foreign companies.

The final document drafted by the 21 Ibero-American foreign ministers represents a victory for Cuba: the end of the U.S. economic blockade imposed on Cuba 30 years ago.

President Castro said today that support from the Latin American countries is of paramount importance in strengthening Cuban-U.S. relations. Castro said that Cuba is moving in this direction by admitting the investment of foreign capital into its economy:

"We do not reject any area. The injection of foreign capital is very interesting for the country. The investment of capital is suitable for national interests. Foreigners can invest capital or technology. Any possibility can be discussed."

Transition in Cuba:

"I have been explaining our difficulties, our ideas, doing everything possible to overcome a difficult situation resulting from the fall of socialism in eastern Europe and the U.S. blockade."

Relations with the United States:

"We are willing to reciprocate any U.S. gesture."

Regarding Bill Clinton:

"He seems to belong to a new generation. He seems to be a decent and peace-loving person. This is the impression I have been getting since he took office."

Brazilian assistance:

"I believe that all countries that have relations with the United States can contribute to this extent."

Democratization of the United Nations:

"It is such a fair and necessary thing. It is an institution that has not changed in 50 years. It began with 50 countries and still has the same representation. Almost 200 countries and an entire region such as Latin America and Africa, with so many million inhabitants, do not have a permanent member on the UN Security Council. To democratize the United Nations would mean ending the power to veto, which was a privilege established when the organization began."

The Cuban regime:

"We are working and elaborating ideas, but the essence is that we have always defended principles. We must work intelligently to save the revolution and save the fatherland."

In face of his victory, Castro did not want to comment on criticisms made by Argentine President Carlos Menem regarding the Cuban Socialist dictatorship. Castro was very clear. He said he does not need mediating countries, because the United States and Cuba are neighbors and have a great deal to discuss.

Havana Reports Castro's Willingness To Negotiate

PA1707015893 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0019 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Text] Cuban President Fidel Castro asserted in Salvador de Bahia, Brazil that he is willing to negotiate bilateral differences with the United States, but only based on mutual respect and without endangering the revolution or the social system chosen by the island.

In statements to the media during the final session of the Third Ibero-American Summit, Fidel Castro said Cuba does not need mediators to talk with the United States because the two countries are geographically close. He did say, however, that initiatives from Ibero-American countries would be welcome.

Castro 'Exclusive' Interview on Summit Conclusion

PA1707011893 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Text] Cuban President Fidel Castro apparently did not heed the call made by the Latin American presidents to restore democracy to the island. In an exclusive interview with Maria Elvira Arango of the "24 Hours" newscast, Castro said he makes the changes but in his own way.

The summit ended here in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil. The participants made a commitment to reap the benefits of privatization, free trade, free markets, and all the new things being done in Latin America to pass along to the poor in the short term.

Fidel Castro, as always, stole the show. He gave exclusive statements to the "24 Hours" newscast and explained what he is doing to make the changes requested by the other Latin American presidents. Apparently, Castro did not listen very well.

[Begin recording] [Arango] Good evening, how are you? I have a question for you.

[Castro] A question could be a trap.

[Arango] Do not worry. One, two, three. Commander, it is a fact that Latin American countries have supported Cuba, but they are asking for change. Will there be economic or social changes on the island?

[Castro] Who is asking for change? I have not seen anyone asking for change.

[Arango] The presidents are saying help yourself and we will help you.

[Castro] That is a phrase.

[Arango] Are you not going to change?

[Castro] We are doing many things and making many changes. We are doing them according to our own tastes, according to our own criteria, and according to our own interests. We made constitutional reforms, we established the direct vote system to elect deputies to the National Assembly. We have an electoral system, which would take too long to explain here, but we are pleased with it. We have been making a series of changes leading toward economic opening. We have kept in mind the situation we have experienced after the collapse of the socialist bloc and the strengthening of the U.S. blockade. We have been making all the changes that can help the country survive while preserving our independence, the revolution, and our principles. That is what we are doing.

[Arango] Are you pleased with the summit?

[Castro] Yes, I am pleased. What did he say?

[Arango] You are very kind, commander. I thank you very much. It has been a pleasure meeting you. [end recording]

Cuba's Castro Wants Ibero-American Summit Every Year

PY1707002593 Sao Paulo SBT Television Network in Portuguese 2210 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Report by Monica Waldvogel from Salvador, Bahia State, during evening newscast hosted by Boris Casoy]

[Excerpt] [Waldvogel] [passage omitted on reportage on city tour by Ibero-American leaders] After lunch, the final leg of the conference began at the Convention Center. The final document to be signed by the chiefs of state was ready. The document contains three main points: Ibero-American countries want access to the technology available in the first world, freer trade with rich countries, and more international resources for social development. Everyone agreed on these points.

No agreement was reached, however, by Cuba and Argentina. The presidents of these two countries were at odds when they arrived and are still at odds as they leave.

Castro said he did not hear Argentine President Carlos Menem's criticism against him during the summit. Castro used a conciliatory tone. He announced that he is willing to negotiate, without intermediaries, new relations with the United States. He said he would negotiate just about everything.

[Begin Castro recording, in Spanish] We will not negotiate our country, nor will we negotiate our revolution or the gains of Socialism. We are willing to negotiate ourselves. I am willing to negotiate even my life, but I will not negotiate my country. [end recording]

[Casoy] Now, we are going to hear the latest news on the Third Ibero-American Summit through a live report by Monica Waldvogel.

[Waldvogel] I am holding in my hands the document signed by the 21 Ibero-American leaders here. The document consists of 19 pages, outlining the good intentions to promote development with just one political issue: The very slight condemnation of the U.S. economic blockade against Cuba.

President Fidel Castro again took the center stage at the summit, after all, this is the only international forum attended by Cuba. Castro took advantage of this forum to convey his message to the world. A few minutes ago, near the closing of the meeting, he suggested that the summit be held every year.

To antagonize Castro, Menem proposed that the summit be held every two years because, unlike Cuba, the other Ibero-American countries have several other occasions to meet.

Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez interceded to propose that the foreign ministers meet one year and the presidents the next year. He noted, however, that this does not concern the current chiefs of state. This is perhaps the last summit they will attend because practically all of them end their terms soon.

Closing his remarks, Gonzalez ironically said: Only Spanish King Juan Carlos and Commander Fidel Castro have guaranteed seats at the next summit.

[Casoy] He forgot Fujimori; that is, the king and the dictators. Look, Monica, the summit was useful for Bahia which promoted itself for tourism worldwide. A meeting of such heterogeneous, different countries, with different problems, could have only ended the way it did; that is, yielding nothing. At most, it was a social gathering. Monica, I want to apologize for having sent you to cover such a weird event, but I hope you may have at least enjoyed Bahia. Good night.

Castro States 'Willingness' To Talk To U.S., Hails Clinton

PA1607194393 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1807 GMT 16 Jul 93

[By Walter Sotomayor]

[Text] Salvador de Bahia, Brazil 16 Jul (NOTIMEX)—The U.S. President is a decent and peace-loving person, Cuban leader Fidel Castro said on 16 July upon stating his willingness to talk to Washington. In an conversation with NOTIMEX and journalists from Brazilian media sources, the Cuban leader explained that that dialogue does not mean he is giving up his principles. "We do not negotiate the revolution or the accomplishments of socialism," Castro stated upon rejecting any isolated mediation effort to establish a dialogue with the United States.

Showing signs of fatigue for the eight-hour trip between Havana and Salvador de Bahia, Brazil, and appearing weary for staying up late due to a very intense and tiresome agenda of bilateral contacts, Castro indicated that the summit is creating new ties in Ibero-America. However, he ruled out any mediation effort to bring Cuba and the United States closer together, in what would be a dialogue aimed at ending the commercial blockade imposed on the Caribbean island 34 years ago. "To that end, there is no need for intermediaries; we are neighbors of the United States," Castro recalled at the end of the penultimate session at the Third Ibero-American Summit.

Castro emphasized "the solidarity displayed by Latin America in the wake of the attempt to crush our people," in reference to the commercial blockade imposed by Washington on the island more than three decades ago.

While the presidents chatted informally amongst themselves, Castro was the only one surrounded by journalists—who made him step back a few meters from the room on the fourth floor of the Convention Center—for a conversation. When responding on the initiative of friendship gestures towards Washington, the Cuban leader said he believes that the gestures should be mutual. "We are ready to reciprocate any gesture," Castro asserted prior to praising the attributes of the U.S. President. "He (Clinton) appears to be an individual from another generation," Castro stated and added: "He is a decent and peace-loving person."

However, after praising Clinton's decency and peaceful character, Castro referred to the warmongering actions by the United States against Baghdad and Mogadishu, resulting from the pressure of what he called reactionary sectors. "That (the bombing of Baghdad) was an act of force, not peace," Castro noted. He mentioned North Korea as another focus of U.S. attention. "I am under the impression that he is being pressured a great deal," Castro said in reference to sectors of the U.S. Administration opposed to the initiatives of President Clinton, particularly in the area of health. [sentence as received] "They accuse him of being weak and that is a risk," Castro continued upon analyzing the Clinton administration. He remarked that this could drag Clinton into launching new warmongering actions in an attempt to regain his eroded popularity.

Castro stated that his proposal, which was announced on 15 July, to promote the democratization of the United Nations "is very fair and necessary." "It is clear to me that it moved some presidents to think about it," Castro stressed upon condemning the right to veto as an exclusive right of five nations in the UN Security Council. The Security Council has become the institutionalization of hegemony," he commented defending his position that Latin America, a continent with more than 400 million people, should have greater representation in that international organization.

Castro avoided commenting on the alleged criticism made only by Argentine President Carlos Saul Menem, in an evident attempt to avoid polemics. "I did not hear a thing about it," the Cuban leader concluded.

Argentina's Menem Again Criticizes Cuban Regime

PY1607151293 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1352 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] Salvador, Brazil, 16 Jul (NA)—Argentine President Carlos Menem this morning called for the end of all the dictatorships "in every part of the world, including Latin America," as he was leaving his hotel on his way to the Third Ibero-American Summit.

During a brief struggle between his bodyguards and journalists outside the Meridien Hotel, Menem became annoyed when a reporter asked him why the subject of the democratization of Cuba was not mentioned during the summit.

"What do you mean no one mentioned it? I asked that dictatorships end not only in every part of the world, but also in Latin America, and the only dictatorship here is that in Cuba," the Argentine president said.

He said he does not feel frustrated for not being able to meet privately with Cuban President Fidel Castro because he understands that "there simply was not enough time" to make arrangements and arrange the meeting's general guidelines.

Menem again criticized the Cuban regime by saying: "It is unacceptable that in the current world there still should be dictatorial regimes that subjugate people and destroy human dignity."

As he improvised and raised his eyes from his written speech, a copy of which he had handed out to summit participants, Menem said Latin America should "answer the aspirations of millions of people who need to fully enjoy their social rights with concrete programs and decisions."

Castro Reprises 'Lost Sheep' Role at Summit

PY1607125293 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0605 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Report by Antonio Martinez]

[Text] Salvador, Brazil, 16 Jul (EFE)—During the Third Ibero-American Summit, Cuban President Fidel Castro has repeated his usual role of a lost sheep whose colleagues are trying to convince, unsuccessfully, to return to the flock.

Just like the past two years during the Ibero-American summits in Guadalajara, Mexico, and Madrid, public attention was centered on this fruitless negotiation: "You give democracy and we give food."

During this summit, many chiefs of state have told Castro in different ways and tones, some of them in public, others in private, and others with a tone of impatience, that the solidarity he is claiming for Cuba must first give place to concessions.

Castro, whose age and pessimism are increasingly noticeable according to many people present at the summit, impassively replied to these claims that he remains faithful to what he has been.

However, Castro has said he is satisfied with this Third Ibero-American Summit in Salvador to the only journalists to whom he has given a news conference so far, the Cubans.

Fidel told them that it is a success that the final resolution will repudiate the U.S. blockade, although he said it in diplomatic, indirect, and ambiguous terms that, translated into English, may sound even more insubstantial.

Besides, he has again managed to be noted, be seen, and heard at the international level, something that, given his isolation, he enjoys very little.

The rebuff Fidel received publicly at the Salvador summit was staged by Argentine President Carlos Menem, whose offer to mediate between Cuba and the United States was despised.

The Cuban Government has made it understood that Cuba does not need a mediator to continue quarreling with the United States.

Pressured by the statements of all his Ibero-American colleagues, Fidel indirectly told them during the opening session to stop bothering him and that it is better that they demand the democratization of the United Nations.

After enumerating most of the social, economic, and political misfortunes of Latin America—mentioning figures like 8 million children under five years of age with malnutrition and the $450 billion foreign debt—Castro this time did not recommend revolution as a solution, but to triple the seats in the U.N. Security Council.

Castro's speech ended with a petition of solidarity with Cuba, which several presidents answered yes, with pleasure, but that in exchange he at least announce democratization, public liberties, and human rights.

With the exception of a few concrete details, many journalists who also covered the previous Ibero-American summits felt they were hearing the same things regarding Cuba.

Castro Rules Out Changes, Multiparty System

PA1907043593 Paris AFP in Spanish 0356 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] Salvador, Bahia, Brazil, 18 Jul (AFP)—Cuban President Fidel Castro explicitly ruled out any kind of political opening for his country that would include a multiparty system, during an interview granted to the Brazilian media on 18 July. "In Cuba there is and can be no other party" than the Communist Party, the top Cuban leader said. "We are not willing to do that. I think the monolithic unity of our people is our most important weapon to resist," he added.

Castro said he foresees no immediate possibility of lifting the U.S. blockade against Cuba. "We must get used to the idea it will last a long time," the president added in reference to a request that the sanctions be lifted made on 16 July in the final declaration of the summit of 21 chiefs of state and government of Ibero-America.

Castro said the United States should take the initiative of negotiating with Cuba. He said he learned "through the media" that Argentine President Carlos Menem "wants to serve as mediator" between Havana and Washington. Castro, however, flatly ruled out the alleged good offices offer saying: "We would not participate in that show."

He recalled the consequences of the dismantling of the former Soviet Union. "When the USSR disappeared it was said Cuba lost its support. Actually, it was the USSR that lost itself. It was not us who lost the USSR," Castro added.

The Cuban president described Ibero-American summits, the first of which was held in Guadalajara, Mexico, in 1991 as "positive steps." "It is true Latin America, as a rule, has been submissive to the United States and this is why we are weak and dependent. Some to a greater and some to a lesser extent. The fact that Latin Americans are meeting without asking for permission and without U.S. presence is an important step (...) Also, Cuba's presence gives more importance to the event," he pointed out.

Castro called for the incorporation of Brazil as a permanent member of the UN Security Council.

He arrived in Salvador on the evening of 14 July to participate in the summit. He traveled to Sao Paulo on 17 July to participate in the inaugural session of the Latin American Parliament, and that afternoon returned to Salvador, from where he will return to his country on 18 July.

Holds News Conference

FL1907131793 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] At a news conference on 18 July in Salvador, Bahia, Fidel Castro stressed that Cuba is today the most independent country on the face of the earth, and this amidst extremely difficult circumstances, so as to preserve the achievements obtained thanks to socialism. In this connection, Fidel Castro explained that despite the limitations the island is confronting, Cuba today has 1 doctor for every 231 inhabitants and a dentist for every 1,345, as well as an infant mortality rate of 9.3 per 1,000 live births in 1992. He stressed that at a time when the Latin American nations are weighed down by serious social problems exacerbated by neoliberal economic policies, Cuba displays economic indicators that are in certain cases better than those of developed nations.

Fidel reported that life expectancy in Cuba is a little over 75 years. There are 300,000 professors and teachers in the educational system. The entire population goes to school up to 11 years of age, and there have been remarkable advances made in culture and sports.

During the news conference, a representative of the National Federation of Journalists of Brazil presented to Fidel the document containing a resolution of condemnation of the blockade approved by the Latin American journalists meeting.

Dismisses Multiparty System

PY1907130293 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] During a news conference on 18 July to the Brazilian press in Salvador, Bahia State, Brazil, Cuban President Fidel Castro ruled out the possibility of introducing any political opening in Cuba which may entail a multi-party system. Castro stated: In Cuba there is not—and cannot be—any other party except the Communist Party; We will not do that. I believe the monolithic unity of the people is our most important weapon in our continued struggle.

Argentina's Menem on 'Change of Attitude' Toward Castro

PY1707181693 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1129 GMT 17 Jul 93

[By NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS "special correspondent"]

[Text] Salvador, 17 Jul (NA)—Argentine President Carlos Menem has stated that the solidarity which Castro received from the Ibero-American presidents "was not absolute but tied" to changes in Cuba's regime.

Menem held a news conference as soon as the Third Ibero-American Summit ended. He told Argentine journalists that he did not meet with Castro "because Cuba tried to tie the meeting to the softening of Argentina's criticisms."

President Menem added that "Cuba is not isolated" by the U.S. embargo; rather it is "isolating itself quickly, moving rapidly toward poverty, toward a severe shortage of resources and losing the ability to operate as a country."

He emphasized: "This cannot be blamed on Argentina or the United States. The fact is that no country wants to lend support to the process of self-destruction that Cuba is carrying out at the whim of a single man, not of its people."

Menem conveyed his own impression of the position the presidents had upheld at the Third Ibero-American Summit and again criticized Castro during his talk with Argentine journalists at the end of his official activities in Salvador.

The Argentine president said that a meeting was unlikely between Castro and U.S. President Bill Clinton. In a brief statement at the end of the summit, Castro said that he was willing to hold such a meeting.

"It would be difficult for President Clinton to agree to hold a dialogue under the present conditions, and believe me I know what I am talking about," Menem said.

Menem denied that Castro had invited him to visit Havana and reiterated that it was never his intention to mediate between the United States and Cuba. "You were the ones who said it," Menem said to journalists.

The president stated that his thwarted meeting with the Cuban president was "Cuba's idea," and explained that "they tried to tie it to the softening of Argentina's criticisms."

He said: "I do not know whether we could call it a condition, but it was a request which became unacceptable. It was one of the reasons the meeting could not take place. Furthermore, our positions are totally incompatible."

Asked about the solidarity that Ibero-American presidents extended to Cuba at this summit, Menem answered: "It was not an absolute, blanket solidarity. It was tied to changes in Cuba's regime."

The president emphasized that this condition "is obvious in all presidential speeches because the presidents mentioned democracy and freedom, and pointed out that no single country should lack democracy."

Menem also explained the motives for his change of attitude toward Castro, whom he harshly criticized on 15 July after having said the night before, upon his arrival in Salvador, that Cuba was experiencing "a small opening."

"When I said that, I was aware that such an opening was possible. Meanwhile, however, some chiefs of state, including Patricio Aylwin, Felipe Gonzales, and King Juan Carlos, talked to Fidel," Menem stated.

He added: "They told me later that Fidel was adamant and that it would be impossible to insist on a democratic solution. The[y] had no choice but to return to my original stance and urge Fidel to reinstate democracy."

Bolivia's Paz Zamora Requests 'Gesture' From Castro

PY1607123793 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2244 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Text] Salvador (Brazil), 15 July (EFE)—Bolivian President Jaime Paz Zamora today requested some gesture from his Cuban counterpart, Fidel Castro, so that Latin America can support him in his "distressing" appeal to Latin American countries to show solidarity with the Cuban situation.

During a brief speech to bid farewell to his counterparts, Paz Zamora stated that "solidarity with Cuba should never be abandoned, but that solidarity is becoming increasingly difficult, and Cuba must help itself so that we can show solidarity with it."

Paz Zamora will not participate in the sessions scheduled for 16 July as he will return to his country to organize the transition process to hand over power to his successor, Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada.

With regard to a possible democratization process, Paz Zamora urged Castro to "reach an agreement with Latin America on that distressing appeal for solidarity."

Although he reiterated that Latin Americans cannot refuse to show solidarity with Cuba because it "has enough moral and political authority to be entitled to it," Paz Zamora hinted that Castro must take some steps to bring about democracy and abandon his single party system in his country.

Castro today closed his speech at the Third Ibero-American Summit, entreating Latin America to support his country: "I cannot forget Cuba, which is totally blocked, harassed, and threatened because it is a small country, because it sought to establish social justice, because it refuses to surrender. I ask my Latin American brothers to show solidarity with that Cuba that keeps battling on."

Struggle Against Drug Trafficking on Agenda

PA1607130693 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] The Ibero-American Summit will also include drug trafficking on its agenda. This topic, which had not been included in the draft of the final resolution, was included at the last minute at the request of the Peruvian delegation.

The world struggle against drug trafficking must be confronted in a responsible manner. This responsibility must be shared by the producer countries and the drug consumer countries, according to the draft final resolution of the Third Ibero-American Summit. The topic, which had not

been included in the initial drafts of the document, was included at the last minute at the request of Peru. The document seeks to become a regional program for development.

The Peruvian delegation proposed the establishment of a relationship between the scourge and terrorism. This Peruvian position was presented by Peruvian Foreign Minister Oscar de la Puente Raygada. After a heated debate, the proposal was finally included in the draft of the Declaration of Salvador de Bahia that will be approved on 16 July at the conclusion of the summit.

Report on Colombian President's Activities at Summit

PA1607232393 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] Colombian President Cesar Gaviria Trujillo has been one of the busiest presidents at the Ibero-American Summit and has met with several heads of state. Gaviria met with the Mexican president on 16 July and the two agreed to give the Group of Three new impetus.

Here is a portion of the speech delivered by the Colombian president at the Ibero-American Summit.

[Begin Gaviria recording] Our most urgent task is to see that the so-called new global agenda really includes economic and social development among the most important topics in the dialogue among the members of the world community.

If we want a permanent and stable world peace, it is not enough to separate adversaries with multinational forces. We must sow the lasting peace that only stems from collective efforts to attain well-being. [end recording]

Summit Declaration Terms GATT Uruguay Round 'Unpostponable'

PY1707001593 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2157 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] Salvador (Brazil, 16 July (EFE)—The Third Ibero-American Summit of heads of state and government ended today with the hope that the Uruguay round of the GATT talks might be brought to a successful conclusion, although it did not expressly condemn industrial countries' protectionist practices, as the countries of Latin America would have liked.

In point 15 of the final declaration, which runs some 19 pages long, Ibero-American leaders deem that "the conclusion" of negotiations within GATT is "unpostponable."

They also underscored that "a renewed multilateral system of trade must include fairer and more just trade rules, the phasing out of tariff and nontariff barriers, and, above all, the avoidance of unfair competition, unilateral restrictive measures, and protectionist measures."

They added that "a balanced and global outcome will enable better access to international markets, and therefore the consolidation of modernization processes and opening drives."

It has been decided, however, that issues pertaining to economics, trade, and integration will be discussed in the Fourth Ibero-American Summit to be held in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, next year.

At the closing of the summit meeting, Colombian President Cesar Gaviria proposed that the next summit be held in his country. He then stressed that "we must start working now" with a view to achieving success in the long and much-postponed path to integration.

While Gaviria was delivering his speech, most of the presidents nodded their approval when he mentioned the objective of the next summit meeting.

Bolivia's Paz Eyes 'Coca for Development' Policy

PY1507152693 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0609 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Report by Emilio Crespo]

[Text] Salvador (Brazil), 15 Jul (EFE)—Drug trafficking, which moves millions of dollars in the United States—as much in illegal benefits as in funds to repress it—also can serve for businessmen with entrepreneurial inclinations and idle capital to multiply their fortunes.

This system is proposed by Bolivian President Jaime Paz Zamora, and it requires three essential elements: his country, the economic stability it is enjoying now, and coca plantations.

Paz Zamora said that like the rest of his policy to change "coca for development," the method is working satisfactorily, although Bolivian sources admit that, unfortunately for the Andean country, it has not been fully implemented.

According to Paz Zamora, the idea is that businessmen must agree to invest in Bolivia, which, after the draconian economic adjustments over the past eight years, has a bomb-proof stability and one of the best streamlined economies on the continent.

The investment must be made in programs to replace coca plantations, which have the support of the government and several countries and international organizations.

Where Quechua peasants used to plant the centuries-old coca leaf of the Incas—then transformed into cocaine by some drug trafficker—there will be tomatoes awaiting a truck, purchased with the idle capital of the businessman, which will take the vegetables to the market on a highway built with soft credits from international cooperation.

The Bolivian president's idea has been put into practice in several cases through the assistance of countries such as the United States or Spain but has not prospered as he wanted.

With this system the foreign businessman would earn money by helping to end one of the scourges of society where he lives, drug trafficking and consumption.

If the private sector shows no interest in this undertaking, the Bolivian president feels that the governments of rich countries, which usually are the final destination for cocaine, must help the producer of raw material with solidarity and not only with repression.

The solution to the cocaine problem must promote economic and social development in the coca-producing areas,

Paz Zamora told EFE within the framework of the Third Ibero-American Summit of chiefs of state and government, which will be held in this Brazilian town.

According to official sources, the summit declaration will include these guidelines on the consumer's responsibility in the drug-trafficking problem and the need to fight it with social development.

Latin American social issues are the central issue of the Ibero- American summit, which will begin today and in which Paz Zamora is willing to defend his theory on coca.

Bolivia, together with Peru, is the largest coca producer in the world, and from this crop not only cocaine can be made but also medicinal and nutritious substances promoted by Paz Zamora insistently during his government, which will end on 6 August.

"Coca is good, but cocaine is bad. Coca is our identity while cocaine comes from outside," the president said.

Bolivians take coca leaves by infusion, which is an invigorating tonic recommended to tourists to fight mountain sickness, while peasants and miners chew it to fight hunger and give energy to the body while working in the cold solitude of the Andean high plateaus.

The Bolivian president recalls with pleasure how coca, which he defined as the "Bolivian soul," was displayed at the International Expo Sevilla (Spain) last year and that that publicity was an important step in the efforts to liberate its beneficial and therapeutic uses.

But coca plantations have multiplied in Bolivia much higher than local consumption needs and for a decade have served primarily to supply the clandestine laboratories where cocaine is produced.

Now, "if you want less production of coca, you must pay for it," the president said. He added: "This is not a matter of blackmailing with the crops," but that much assistance is needed to replace it.

Colombia's Gaviria Eyes International Trade Restrictions

PY1607030993 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2059 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Text] Salvador (Brazil), 15 Jul (EFE)—Colombian President Cesar Gaviria stated here today that it is no longer enough to defeat violent people or to overthrow tyrants if poverty is not eradicated.

Addressing the Third Ibero-American Summit here, Gaviria said: "If we want a permanent, stable world peace we cannot simply break belligerent factions apart with the support of multinational forces."

"To succeed we must promote that durable peace which can only be built through collective effort aimed at achieving well-being."

Gaviria also stated that the Ibero-American community expects their leaders to overcome rhetoric "so that this summit might yield answers that would encourage them to believe in democracy, in integration, and in our ability to change things."

Gaviria devoted most of his speech to international trade restrictions, especially the tariff barriers imposed by developed countries against agricultural products from poor countries.

Gaviria said: "After decades of protectionist and statist-oriented policies, new polices based on private initiative, free trade, and competition have now emerged victorious in every corner of the Earth."

He added: "It is no secret to anyone that the developing world has placed its hopes upon international trade as the tool that will lead us to collective prosperity."

Gaviria noted that economic freedom is a powerful concept that is attractive to people because it gives new opportunities to workers and employers alike.

He stated that "on a global scale, it is paramount that the Uruguay round of the GATT talks end successfully." He said "this is an appeal to common sense; it is even a call for social justice."

Gaviria added: "Protectionism is removing the food from the tables of millions of peasants who make up the bulk of poor people in the world."

He said: "By granting economically unjustifiable privileges to politically powerful rural minorities in rich countries, protectionism is violating the legitimate rights of the peasant masses in developing countries to produce and to compete."

Gaviria conveyed his belief that the regional integration processes now under way in the Americas are not simpy trade pacts "but true remedies for poverty and unemployment."

Finally, Gaviria stated that Latin America now has the historic opportunity to lead that process "if we are determined to reconcile, before the end of this century, all those regional and partial processes of integration and free trade now under way in the hemisphere."

Responsible for Ibero-American Resolution's Drugs Clause

PA1607130693 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] The Ibero-American Summit will also include drug trafficking on its agenda. This topic, which had not been included in the draft of the final resolution, was included at the last minute at the request of the Peruvian delegation. The world struggle against drug trafficking must be confronted in a responsible manner. This responsibility must be shared by the producer countries and the drug consumer countries, according to the draft final resolution of the Third Ibero-American Summit. The topic, which had not been included in the initial drafts of the document, was included at the last minute at the request of Peru. The document seeks to become a regional program for development. The Peruvian delegation proposed the establishment of a relationship between the scourge and terrorism. This Peruvian position was presented by Peruvian Foreign Minister Oscar de la Puente Raygada. After a heated debate, the proposal was finally included in the draft of the Declaration of Salvador de Bahia that will be approved on 16 July at the conclusion of the summit.

Mexican President Eyes Drugs, Subregional Trade Pacts

PA1607051193 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Azteca Network 0300 GMT in Spanish 16 Jul 93

[Address by Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari at the Third Ibero-American Summit in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil on 15 July—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] It is our conviction that the great causes of humanity to achieve peace and respect for human rights and democracy, to eliminate poverty, and to protect the environment are undoubtedly Ibero-American causes. They are our countries' commitments and our people's demands. That would not hold true if those issues were used to cover up new forms of meddling, new trade protectionist measures, and new ways of looking down on cultures.

In the fight against drug trafficking, it is necessary to consolidate determination among nations to face the problem as an integral and overall phenomenon that must be fought in all its phases. We must recognize that as long as drug trafficking continues to be so profitable in consumer markets, the cost of the best efforts of countries such as ours to stop drugs from passing through our territories will continue to rise. The current struggle to repress drug traffickers is insufficient to win. We must change it and recognize that this is a problem concerning everyone, even those who view it as something remote.

We view the negotiations in Latin American to reach subregional trade agreements with optimism. We cannot wait until economic weaknesses are overcome or are reverted to developed countries or for intercontinental conflicts to disappear soon to give free way to the Uruguay round of GATT. We cannot wait until old international structures catch up with the new world reality and its challenges. Ibero-American countries can and should work for objectives that are undoubtedly common. [passage omitted]

Mexico's Salinas Advocates Reform of UN

PY1707142993 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0024 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Text] Salvador, 16 Jul (EFE)—Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari noted here today the need for a special Ibero-American "summit" to jointly submit a plan for reforming the United Nations.

The Mexican president, who attended the Third Ibero-American Summit in Salvador, said in a press conference that the United Nations needs a new charter "to strengthen the democratization of its decisions." This proposal is in harmony with a similar proposal made yesterday by his Cuban colleague Fidel Castro.

"I believe it is necessary to hold a special Ibero-American summit to analyze the possible reform and submit a joint proposal," Salinas told the press.

The Mexican president said it must be admitted that the United Nations was born 50 years ago under "other international circumstances" and that, consequently, it is necessary to give it "new life."

Salinas also voiced his satisfaction over the "political dialogue" held in Brazil, emphasizing the progress made in the area of integration in the summits held in Guadalajara, Madrid, and Salvador.

He said that countries should tirelessly work for integration and development, adding that during this meeting it was clear that it is not possible to consider exclusionary or single markets.

The Mexican president emphasized that "a state without a market is inefficient and a market without the support of the state does not favor social equality."

He said that the world is moving toward free trade, and urged a conclusion to the Uruguay round of GATT (General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs) talks in order to strengthen this process.

He emphasized that the North American Free Trade Agreement is working properly, noting in this regard the agreements that Mexico reached with Chile, on the one hand, and with Colombia and Venezuela within the context of the Group of Three, on the other.

The Mexican president said that he supports the resolute fight against protectionism, adding that any free trade system should be controlled by the states in order to avoid distortions.

Colombia, Mexico, Venezuela To Reactivate 'Group of 3'

PY1707143393 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1447 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] Salvador, Brazil, 16 Jul (EFE)—An adviser to the Colombian Presidency has told EFE that Colombia and Mexico have committed themselves to giving new stimulus to the Group of 3, which includes Venezuela. The Group of 3 has been deteriorating in the last few months for lack of a fluid political dialogue.

Mexican President Carlos Salinas and Colombian President Cesar Gaviria, who met privately during the Ibero-American Summit, reviewed the situation of this integration mechanism that seeks, particularly, to create a free-trade zone.

The presidential adviser said that Salinas admitted that his administration had not paid appropriate attention to the process because in the last months it has focused its attention on the North American Free Trade Agreement and the implications of the U.S. presidential elections.

Gaviria's adviser said that the main difficulty faced by the Group of 3 was Mexico's resistance to a swift reduction of taxes and fees, and that it "was paradoxical because Mexico is known as having the largest industrial force."

Salinas asserted that the process will now become more dynamic and reported that the free-trade treaty will probably be signed at the end of this year.

Acting Brazilian Foreign Minister Says Summit 'Positive'

PY1707143593 Sao Paulo Rede Bandeirantes Television in Portuguese 2230 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] Acting Brazilian Foreign Minister Luiz Phillipe Lampreia this evening evaluated the Ibero-American Summit.

[Begin Lampreia recording] In my opinion, the summit was highly positive. I believe that, beyond all doubt, there were different opinions here. It is obvious, there is no consensus, there cannot be absolute consensus on everything. Yet it was certainly possible to confirm that Ibero-American countries have begun to find their common denominators, coordinate their actions, and identify priorities. The priority issue of our summit was the Agenda for Development, with emphasis on social development. The issue for the next summit, to be held in Cartagena, Colombia, in 1994, will deal with commerce, investment, and integration. [end recording]

Countries Sign Coffee Agreement, Create Pricing Association

PY1707150393 Sao Paulo Rede Manchete in Portuguese 0000 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Text] An agreement on coffee was one of the most important documents of an economic nature to be signed today. Eight countries signed this document. They are: Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. The objective of this agreement is to withhold coffee in the producing countries to force prices to a better level in the international market. It has also been decided to establish an international association of coffee-producing countries which will regulate coffee prices effective immediately.

Guatemalan President Ramiro de Leon was the only president to discuss with journalists the agreement on coffee and other summit issues. The president said that he returns to his country with hopes for Latin American integration. He proposed a common front against the economic blockade in Central America and against poverty.

[Begin de Leon recording in Spanish, in progress] ...are aimed at fighting poverty, at the construction of projects inside the Republic; 417 projects will be constructed in these 180 days and the remaining two years, of which we still don't know how many will be. [end recording]

Venezuelan Minister Rejects Remarks on Drug Traffickers

PA1707162093 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Text] Venezuelan Foreign Minister Fernando Ochoa Antich insisted at the Ibero-American Summit in Salvador, Bahia that his country has not been taken over by drug traffickers to the extent reported in Colombia by General Miguel Alfredo Maza Marquez, [former director of Colombia's Administrative Department of Security]. General Ochoa said the following regarding this issue:

[Begin Ochoa recording] I flatly rejected Gen. Maza's remarks as they appeared in EL ESPECTADOR because I found them to be truly exaggerated. In Venezuela, for example, the conditions do not exist for the production of drugs because there are no truly isolated areas where drugs can be produced or laboratories can be built.

With regard to money laundering, I have admitted that Venezuela offers certain favorable conditions because its economy is basically open. The same thing that is happening in Venezuela is happening elsewhere. Venezuela is a bridge for drug trafficking. It has to be a bridge country because our borders and coasts are extensive and it is difficult to control the trafficking of any product. [end recording]

Mexico's Salinas Discusses Journalism, Cuban Relations

PA1707221093 Mexico City XHTV Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Text] President Carlos Salinas de Gortari gave a news conference on the afternoon of 16 July. These are some of the reporters' questions and President Salinas' replies:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] On 16 July, the Attorney General's Office in Mexico released a report on certain people, some of whom are journalists with alleged links to criminal activities. I would like your opinion on this: What do you think of journalism, and how do you regard the government's relationship with journalists?

[Salinas] Regarding the report released by the Attorney General's Office, I want to say that I feel the utmost respect for journalists and the task they do. Your work is essential to the daily life of Mexicans and it has the responsibility of a public service. In addition to the sacred right of freedom of expression outlined in our Constitution, your work also demands full respect and recognition.

As president of the Republic, I express my respect and my great appreciation for the work you and all the journalists carry out in our fatherland—the very delicate task you have of keeping our fellow Mexicans informed.

I reiterate to you, the journalists who accompany me, not only my respect, but also the affection that we have built up over these years of intense work.

[Reporter] Many thanks. Mr. President, since the days of President Lopez Mateos, and possibly to a lesser extent during the tenure of President Diaz Ordaz, Mexico's foreign policy brandished the flag over Cuba's right to self-determination. Does the summit agenda include a request that Cuba try to change its structure? Many thanks Mr. President.

[Salinas] In reply to the second part of your question, we did not specifically discuss the topic. The emphasis was mostly on reforms to the UN organization and this is where the attention was concentrated. Regarding the first part, we maintain respectful and cordial relations with the Cuban Government and a very affectionate and close relationship with the Cuban people. This is the way we uphold our relations, with full attachment to our historic principles of international policies, which today are part of our Constitution. [end recording]

Panamanian, Chilean Presidents Review Regional Issues

PA1707134393 Panama City CRITICA LIBRE in Spanish 16 Jul 93 p 12

[Text] On 15 July, Panamanian President Guillermo Endara met with Chilean President Patricio Aylwin to review the most important problems in the Ibero-American area.

President Aylwin was interested in learning of the situation in Panama and how the country is preparing to receive and manage the Panama Canal. President Endara told him that Panama is working to manage the canal with the same efficiency and soundness it is currently being managed.

Regarding the political situation, President Endara told the Chilean president that he has a commitment to the people and to history to ensure, promote, and support a clean, pure, aboveboard, and free electoral process. "Democracy is advancing and proof of this is that there are approximately 18 political organizations currently interested in participating in the elections," Endara stated.

Chilean President Patricio Aylwin, who canceled a tour to Central America at the end of July, told his Panamanian colleague that he regretted not being able to visit Panama. Patricio Aylwin said he had to cancel his trip because several internal problems impeded his leaving Chile at the time.

The Chilean Government is presenting the candidacy of Rafael Moreno to the post of director of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and is attempting to gain international support for its candidate. President Endara stated that Panama supports Rafael Moreno's candidacy to the FAO directorship. Foreign Ministers Julio Linares from Panama and Enrique Cima Silva from Chile also attended the cordial meeting.

Ana Mae Diaz de Endara, the Panamanian first lady, has visited several religious and social centers during her stay in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil.

Human Rights Organization Issues Report at Summit

PY1807010693 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2232 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] Salvador, Bahia (Brazil), 16 Jul (EFE)—A report issued by a human rights organization today stresses that Latin American security bodies have contaminated themselves with the methods used by terrorists and drug traffickers, thereby contributing to more human rights violations.

In a letter addressed to the heads of state and government participating in the Third Ibero-American Summit, Juan de Dios Parra, the Latin American Human Rights Association (ALDHU) secretary general, stressed that at the dawn of the 21st century, "the Latin American peoples are expecting answers allowing them to believe that peace is possible, and to regain their faith in democracy."

Parra asked for a change in the presidents' attitudes in ending corruption and implementing new strategies to fight drug trafficking, terrorism, social violence, and poverty.

Parra added: "In Latin America there are already 400 million people whose economic, social, and cultural rights are denied." In Parra's opinion, the liberal economic adjustment programs, despite their good results, "are having an unfair impact on our continent's poorest and most resourceless people."

Parra added: "Corruption undermines faith in democracy, promotes disobedience, disrupts the performance of the institutions, and endorses subversion."

Parra added that the violence bred by drug trafficking and terrorism has claimed more than 50,000 human lives in Peru and Colombia and it represents a serious threat to democratic stability, the financial system, and the administration of justice.

According to Parra, terrorism has contaminated the security apparatuses of the states and, as a result, there have been reports of hundreds of cases of torture, missing people, kidnappings, killings, and extortions committed "by the repressive organizations."

Parra stressed that the reinstatement of the death penalty, as in Peru; the implementation of "cruel and arbitrary measures of repression"; and the lack of procedural guarantees "do not contribute to fighting terrorism but, rather, enhance it, with an impact on the stability of democracies."

"New international conditions have favored progress in the realms of peace and international security. Nevertheless, in line with proposals by the UN secretary general, we consider that UN political and security field commitments should not be carried out at the expense of development responsibilities. Likewise, actions within the framework of the Program for Development must take the significance of social issues into consideration.

A meaningful analysis that will propitiate a new dialogue with respect to the problems of development, within the framework of Resolution 47/81, is important. This analysis must be based on the premise that favorable economic and social conditions tend to strengthen peace, and the conviction that the United Nations constitutes the forum by excellence on where to raise and find solutions to all global problems, in an integrated manner as relates to their political, socioeconomic, and humanitarian magnitudes. [sentence as received] We thus pretend that our considerations on the issue may represent a contribution to the establishment of parameters which the secretary general will have to establish in order to carry out this task."

"Our countries have struggled to abolish every sort of discrimination based on race, religion, place of origin, or other forms of intolerance. As a result of this, we join the universal concern for the growing xenophobic and racist expressions that are occurring in various places throughout the world, and we support the way the United Nations is handling the problem. We acknowledge that the problem has economic as well as social roots and for this reason there is urgent need to encourage international cooperation that will lead to more and better employment opportunities and will allow a decrease in the differences between nationals and foreigners."

"We consider that the significant increase in international migratory movements as a consequence of poverty and violence is evidence of the need for the North and the South

to find solutions to the socioeconomic problems of the developing countries, as well as to ensure respect for the human rights of all immigrants."

In short, in addition to supporting Argentina's candidacy as member of the permanent UN Security Council for the 1994-1995 period, the Final Document lists some concrete Ibero-American cooperation measures and incorporates the recommendations of the 10 preliminary meetings related to the social aspects of development.

Main Points of Salvador 'Final Document'

PA1607195393 Paris AFP in Spanish 1845 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] Salvador de Bahia, Brazil, 15 Jul [date as received] [AFP]—In its final document approved on 16 July by 21 heads of state and government, the Third Ibero-American Summit for the first time called for an end to the U.S. blockade of Cuba.

The Final Document of Salvador states: "We have taken note of resolutions passed in recent international forums on the need to end the unilateral application of economic and trade measures by any state for political reasons."

"On this occasion, we reaffirm our full commitment to representative democracy, and to respect for and defense and promotion of human rights and basic freedoms. In this framework, we reiterate our adherence to the principles of sovereignty, nonintervention, and territorial integrity. We also recognize all peoples' right to freely establish their political systems and institutions in peace, stability, and justice," the document adds.

Other prominent paragraphs of the 19-page, 73-paragraph document read as follows:

"We consider the satisfactory conclusion of the Uruguay Round to be unpostponable. A new multilateral trade system must provide for more fair and equitable rules of trade, and the progressive elimination of tariff and nontariff barriers, and must basically eschew unfair trade practices, restrictive unilateral measures, and protectionist measures. A more balanced global system will allow greater access to international markets and thus consolidate modernization and [economic] opening processes."

"We agreed on the need to adapt the UN Security Council to the new international reality. On this subject, we feel it is necessary to reform its makeup and working methods, so that it can better carry out its functions. The basic principles underlying this reorganization should be, among others, a greater representativity, greater openness in its actions, and more effectiveness. To increase the geographical representativity of the UN Security Council, there must be a greater in-depth analysis of the need for an equitable increase in the number of its permanent and nonpermanent members based on general consensus, with full respect for the principle of the sovereign equality of states."

"We consider indispensable an analysis of the worldwide phenomenon of corruption, in view of its negative influence on democracies."

"The serious problem of the illegal production, traffic, and consumption of drugs must be considered from an overall perspective, based on the principle of shared responsibility."

"We reiterate our firm condemnation of terrorism because of its disregard for the lives, freedom, and dignity of human beings, and because of its links, in some cases, to drug trafficking. We reaffirm our resolute commitment to cooperation to achieve the effective eradication of the problem, and we express solidarity with the victims of that world scourge."

Brazilian Daily Views Ibero-American Summit

PY1607215093 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 15 Jul 93 p 3

[From the "Notes and Information" page: "Much Ado About Nothing"]

[Text] A former OAS secretary general once said that the only thing that can be expected from an international conference is the establishment of the date and place for the next meeting. It is already known, therefore, what will be the first decision of the Third Ibero-American Summit of chiefs of state and of government. In fact, two decisions: The leaders of the 21 countries will meet each other personally. Now that they know each other, they are bound to talk, and dialogue is the essence of foreign relations, and thus this jamboree [preceding word in English] will be useful because it attracts attention toward Bahia. The rest...

The rest will be talk about principles which are sufficiently vague or do not count as real commitments. And it cannot be any different because this meeting gathers countries with different levels of development and specific interests, separated by that and also by geographic distance, by the diversity of their economic guidelines, and even by the political associations they have chosen. A meeting with so many chiefs of state and of government, however, must end with a communique "of impact" that will justify the waste of so much energy. Thus, once again will we have the customary references to hackneyed issues such as the end of protectionism, the opening of markets, access to technology, the need for cooperation, and the protection of the environment, children, the aged, etc. This is the soporific part of the meeting.

The excitement will be supplied by the usual attrition between Argentine President Carlos Menem and Cuban President Fidel Castro. The former will pressure the latter over the political opening in Cuba, to which the latter will retaliate with accusations of being agents of "yankee imperialism" to guarantee that the real socialism of the Cuban revolution will continue for a long time. The conference does not want to assume the responsibility of delivering a coup de grace to the longest running Latin American dictatorship where liberty is also most restricted, although it may be annoyed by its existence. It will surely address the issue in the appropriate ineffectual diplomatic manner. They will all then will say goodbye, until the next meeting next year in a place as pleasant as Salvador.

Final Summit Document Not Read In Toto at Menem's Request

PY1707175993 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0749 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Report by Antonio Martinez]

[Excerpts] Salvador, Brazil, 17 Jul (EFE) — Cuban President Fidel Castro has failed in his attempt to get the Third

Ibero-American Summit to condemn the U.S. embargo, but during the last day of the summit he displayed a show of humor that was bulletproof.

The Summit's final declaration only dedicates four of its 200 lines to that topic, and it hardly "takes note" of the fact that other international forums have discussed "the need to eliminate this type of unilateral imposition, the application of measures of an economic or trade nature against any nation by another country for political ends." [passage omitted on previously filed material]

The main document was not read in toto during the final session because [Argentine President Carlos] Menem interrupted Brazilian diplomat Flavio Perry, the Summit's general coordinator, saying that it was not worthwhile losing time reading a document that was known to everyone and that had been negotiated for months by the foreign ministers.

Menem's proposal was supported by everyone, including Castro, and the Argentine president then said: "At least Fidel and I agree on something." [passage omitted]

Lack of Specific Summit Agreements Noted

PA1807200593 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] [Announcer] For two days the heads of state and governments of 21 countries met in the Convention Center of Bahia, Brazil, to devise a program to secure social development in Ibero-America. At the conclusion of this meeting, which attracted 2,000 reporters from all over the world, there was no specific agreement.

The Peruvian position, however, was heard in this sea of ambiguity.

[Oscar de la Puente, president of the Council of Ministers] "Terrorism is being condemned at all international forums. The second issue is connected to drug trafficking. We do not only condemn the organizations that dedicate themselves to this immoral business, but we also are establishing shared responsibilities."

[Announcer] The meeting was an adequate forum for President Fujimori to explain to the world what moved him to adopt the 5 April decision and to appeal to the other chiefs of state to think about the true meaning of democracy.

[Fujimori] "I see my country's true political situation and democracy in a way diametrically opposed to those who adhere to blind conformity lacking real and practical solutions. Is it perhaps risky to say that the system is obsolete and that it must be reexamined, while keeping in mind true democratic concepts, and that consequently, the prevalent political system must be redesigned?"

[Announcer] Another point pending is the unanimous condemnation of the U.S. blockade against Cuba, although now apparently there is more agreement on protesting the authoritarian measure.

Finally, although all the participants have said they are pleased with the agreements that were reached, this appears to be only pretense.

[Unidentified reporter] "Are you happy with what has been achieved so far?

[Colombian President Cesar Gaviria] "Yes, we are happy with what has been achieved and with the exchange of opinions we have had during the past two days."

Brazil's Franco Closes Third Ibero-American Summit

PY1607223493 Rio de Janeiro TVE Television in Portuguese 2115 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Speech by Brazilian President Itamar Franco at the closing ceremony of the Third Ibero-American Summit in Salvador, Brazil—live; broadcast in progress]

[Text] ...I repeat the proposal that in 1945 the countries meeting in San Francisco established as the UN central commitment, in other words, to promote economic and social progress.

Statistical indexes reveal that in several countries of our area worrisome situations prevail regarding infant mortality, illiteracy, access to basic health services and elementary school education, malnutrition, epidemics linked to poverty, and social underdevelopment. The situation is heart-rending, and calls for emergency solutions. The new concept of achieving development through international cooperation must be based on this priority. The historical concept of promoting development was based on the production of material wealth without ensuring its fair distribution. Some countries realized the danger entailed in this situation, and established disciplinary laws. Those who overlooked the need to achieve social development are still suffering the consequences of their heedlessness. We still have time to correct this tremendous historical mistake, but it is running short.

Gentlemen, I believe this is the paramount task of the international community. I am glad to have participated in a meeting that has confirmed that the first duty of a democratic government is to promote and ensure the dignity of human beings.

Messrs. chiefs of state and of government: Brazil, its people, and its government thank you for your visits, and for the common effort made in pursuit of an era of justice and dignity for our peoples. May your excellencies take with you the memory of having lived with a people who only wish peace and prosperity for all the peoples on earth. Thank you. [applause]

Cuba

Castro, Alarcon To Attend Inaugural of Parliament

FL1707182793 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Report from Brazil by special correspondent Felix Fernando Garrido]

[Excerpt] The commander in chief will today participate in the inaugural ceremony at the [new] headquarters of the Latin American Parliament in Sao Paulo. One hundred fifty-seven senators and deputies from the 22 national congresses represented in the Parliament will attend the ceremonies. Along with Fidel will be Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada, president of Cuba's National Assembly of the People's Government. [passage omitted]

'New Flexibility' Displayed; Ownership of U.S. Dollar Legal

PA1707154793 Paris AFP in Spanish 1026 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Report by Antonio Raluy]

[Text] Havana, 17 Jul (AFP)—In Brazil President Fidel Castro and in Havana Carlos Lage, Council of State vice president, who is responsible for the Cuban Government's economic affairs, simultaneously announced on 16 July a certain flexibility in Castroite diplomatic and economic policies, while underlining their concern over the preservation of the Cuban socialist system.

While the Cuban head of state on a diplomatic level displayed a "new flexibility," according to participants at the Third Ibero- American Summit in Salvador de Bahia (Brazil), Lage announced in Havana, before of a group of mostly American executives, the forthcoming legalization of the dollar for use by all Cubans.

Commenting on the meeting that Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez had just held with Fidel Castro, Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana said he perceived a change "in Cuba's relations with the rest of the world. [no closing quotation mark as received]

He specifically referred to the Cuban president's increased "flexibility" and the closer "attention" he paid to Spain's request for economic openness as a prelude to political openness in Cuba.

The same view was expressed by other official delegations, who reported that Fidel Castro has softened his position, especially regarding the United States which, although it was not openly mentioned, was condemned by the summit for maintaining its economic and trade embargo against Cuba.

Havana will be "receptive to any U.S. initiative," Fidel Castro said adding, nevertheless, that Cuba is not prepared to "negotiate the revolution or its socialist achievements."

Carlos Lage insistently stressed that the Cuban Government is not thinking of giving up the "principles of the revolution and its socialist ideals," but he concurrently announced a spectacular measure to participants in the "Third Euromoney Conference"—whose purpose is to attract foreign investors to Cuba—the legalization of the ownership and use of the U.S. dollar by all Cubans.

This measure will allow the authorities to collect the considerable amount of foreign currency that is circulating illegally on the island and to reactivate part of the economy by stimulating consumption by Cubans, who have faced severe poverty since the fall of their former allies from the socialist bloc in Eastern Europe.

All Cubans who own foreign currency will be able to spend it in a network of stores created by the government for that purpose, said Carlos Lage, one of Fidel Castro's closest allies, but he did not disclose the date when this measure would be implemented. The general public in Cuba was not authorized until now to make purchases with dollars at stores reserved for foreigners and tourists.

At present only a certain category of Cubans, particularly those who travel abroad on missions, are allowed to own dollars. Other Cubans who are caught with dollars must pay fines or serve prison sentences.

In June the National Bank of Cuba had already authorized that 10 categories of Cubans could open bank accounts in dollars. At the beginning of the year, tips in dollars were authorized in the tourism sector within the framework of an "experiment" that is now widespread.

Carlos Lage did not conceal the fact that the "liberalization" of the dollar will have a strong "social impact" because it will "create privileges for a certain part of the population," indirectly referring to the many Cubans who receive dollars from relatives living in the United States.

Lage said that although the measure will benefit a considerable number of Cubans and also provide a breath of fresh air for the country, which lost $500 million in 1992 due to a poor sugarcane crop, it constitutes a political risk of considerable proportions for the regime.

It might even displease certain sectors of the population who do not have access to dollars and incite wage earners to leave their jobs for which they receive an average of 200 pesos [time period not specified]—approximately $3.60 on the particularly active parallel market.

Lage said, nevertheless, that legislation on the dollar will be accompanied by measures to reduce the circulation of the national monetary unit [masa monetaria nacional] for the purpose of "reevaluating the Cuban peso."

He also spoke favorably of the restoration of a free parallel market like the one that existed years ago when sufficient consumer products were still available.

Carlos Lage concluded by saying that Cuba must "adapt itself to its new realities with great flexibility."

Lage Presents New Measures to Euromoney Conference

FL1707023493 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Passages in quotation marks recorded Lage comments]

[Text] After meeting in Cancun, Mexico, on 14 and 15 July, the Third International Conference on Business and Investment Opportunities in Cuba worked in Havana today. This conference is sponsored by the British publishing house,

Euromoney. Over 100 businessmen attended the Euromoney meeting. Osmany Cienfuegos and Carlos Lage explained to them in detail Cuba's real situation and the efforts the country is making to overcome its difficulties.

Lage explained that the economic opening and the measures being taken are part of a process that fits in with the new circumstances, which does not mean we are giving up our principles and ideals.

[Fades in] "....of development under conditions that are, to boot, very unfavorable because of the persistence of the economic blockade. We have the possibilities, the capabilities, to develop this process which is being led by the Revolution, without relinquishing the Revolution's principles, our independence and sovereignty, or the ideals of socialism; and with great intelligence—and, I would say also great flexibility within those principles and concepts—to adapt the nation to the new realities. I think that one expression..." [fades out]

Questions covered a broad range of topics: security for investments, the nation's capability, types of businesses. The matter of decriminalizing the possession of hard currency in Cuba and the immediate effects this would have was discussed. During the dialogue, it was explained that this measure will permit a better balance in the nation's finances, as well as be an important way of obtaining hard currency, which will end up being beneficial for the entire population.

"We would say that what is in the process of being prepared is the means of presenting that measure to the competent bodies so that it can be adopted, and the instrumentation and regulations that the country must have in order for that to be feasible."

Carlos Lage said that the measure will undoubtedly have great social impact, and will be compatible to the extent that it is understood.

"We (?have not) [words indistinct]. Therefore, we think our work is not just to orchestrate the measures that may be adopted, but also to explain to the population and persuade it of the need for and the correctness [justeza] of such a measure."

More on New Economic Measures

PA1707034793 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0100 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Report by Marianela Samper]

[Text] The second part of the conference on investment opportunities in Cuba sponsored by EUROMONEY, a British publishing house specializing in these issues, is being held at the Convention Palace in Havana. Cuban Vice President Carlos Lage participated in the last working session of EUROMONEY III in Havana on 16 July.

Representatives from more than 100 firms, mostly from the United States, got an even broader explanation of the island's economic situation, which was discussed during a meeting in Cancun. Specific proposals were reviewed at the Mexican seaside resort concerning business opportunities in tourism, energy, mines, technology, pharmaceuticals, finance, agriculture, food, and electronics.

In Havana, Carlos Lage explained to the foreign businessmen and accredited media representatives that economic opportunities in Cuba are not considered a definite or complete measure, only a conscious and flexible process entailing the creation of new measures without giving up the principles of the revolution. He said the opportunities will extend as far as necessary.

Referring to the blockade, the Cuban vice president said its suspension is not up to us. However, the most important thing right now does depend on us; that is, the need to overcome economic problems at all costs. He then added:

[Begin Lage recording] I do believe the best thing for the country would be for the blockade not to exist. I think the question about this topic is interesting because it has been said many times abroad that we prefer the blockade; that we have enjoyed the benefits of the blockade because the U.S. pressure has united the people; that it has allowed us to develop an awareness of resistance; and that we struggle against the blockade but we definitely want it to continue. None of that is true.

I do not think the blockade has united the Cubans: It has divided them. It has divided the Cubans here from those who have left for the United States. Those of us who stayed have remained much more united. However, the blockade has divided the nation and it has made us face immigration, because Latin American immigration to the United States is not a phenomenon exclusive to Cuba. It is a Latin American phenomenon. It is a phenomenon involving differences in economic and social development. It is essentially an economic phenomenon.

Cuban immigration existed before the revolution triumphed, and it involved a sizable Cuban immigration to the United States. Immigration from other Latin American countries to the United States is proportionally larger than that from Cuba, even today. Confrontation characterizes Cuban immigration due to the prevalent political situation and the confrontation between the two governments: the U.S. Government and our country.

In other words, we have received absolutely no benefits from the blockade, although it is true that the pressure exerted by the United States, the blockade, and the hostility have made Cubans here firmer, more united, and more determined to resist. However, the consequences have been negative, economically speaking, and they have contributed to the division of a nation and a confrontation. That is not the case with immigration from other Latin American countries and with other Latin American communities in the United States. [end recording]

Lage, who is also member of the Communist Party of Cuba Politburo, said the reasons cited by the United States for imposing the blockade on the island no longer exist, and it has now become a confused issue that influences his country's internal policy.

In his address to the participants in the meeting on business opportunities sponsored by the British financial magazine EUROMONEY, Lage announced that Cuban authorities will liberalize the possession of hard currency this year without relinquishing social achievements or abandoning the ideals of socialism.

[Begin Lage recording] We think we must face that reality by accepting it, eliminating the punishment for possession of foreign currency, and establishing measures so people who have access to hard currency can use it. I believe this is but one example of the measures we must adopt and the adaptations that we must...[pauses] that circumstances impose on us.

Likewise, and this is the other measure on which a specific decision is about to be adopted, there is an excessive amount of national currency in circulation. It is a highly inconvenient factor in the development of any economy and it discourages work. We have not arrived at this situation by accident. We arrived at it knowing we would do so. However, we decided it was preferable to face the situation at the appropriate time with the appropriate measures instead of applying a shock therapy solution, which is contrary to the solution we are applying. [end recording]

Foreign Minister Robaina Interviewed

PY1607213093 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 11 Jul 93 p 18

[Interview with Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina by Roberto Muniz; place and date not given]

[Text] [Muniz] You have proposed to the United States a dialogue without preestablished conditions. Have you had any response? The United States now is allegedly interested in this dialogue.

[Robaina] There is a difference between being willing to hold a dialogue and proposing a dialogue. We have expressed, and continue to express, our willingness (and I emphasize this), but officially we have made no proposal for a dialogue. We have good manners, and would not deny anyone the right to talk, a rule that is in any book of etiquette. As I have stated before, I do not think dialogue with Cuba is a priority issue for the U.S. Government, but it is up to Washington and not to Havana to raise this issue.

[Muniz] Cuba continues to firmly uphold communism. At the same time, however, it is opening up its economy to foreign capital, especially in the area of tourism infrastructure. Will Marxism be able to absorb this capitalist opening?

[Robaina] Unfortunately, our regime is not a communist regime, it is merely a socialist regime, a social project carried out within underdevelopment. We have opened our market to the world, and must abide by the established rules; we cannot change them, make them more just and equitable. Negotiations are not carried out with private Cuban individuals, but rather with the Cuban state, and profit is distributed according to the social needs of the entire citizenry. The political system therefore remains unchanged. We are not going to privatize Cuban medicine, sugar refineries, schools, or other institutions. Our negotiations with foreign enterprises are based on a fair distribution of the profit. We cannot, for example, prospect oil alone, but there are enterprises that do this job on the basis of risk contracts. As you see, Marxism can absorb—obviously at a certain political and social cost—this unavoidable capital investment that brings mutual profit.

[Muniz] Cuba is one of the last communist countries in the world. Who is wrong, Cuba or the rest of the world?

[Robaina] I wonder who was right: Jesus Christ or those who crucified him? It is not a matter of going with or against the current. When I look around—the former socialist countries currently engaged in inconceivable wars, in a state of anguish for the unprotected citizens—I can't but congratulate my party for having maintained a firm stance. Ours would be a capitalism with shantytowns, not with luxurious residences. Despite all the difficulties, it is nice to live in a country where no one dies of hunger, where every child—without exception—has access to a school or to a teacher, where infant mortality has reached incredibly low levels, and life expectation surpasses 76 years. It is true we are now swimming in still waters, but neither are we in the situation of thousands of people in the southern hemisphere of the planet, who swim in waters with currents that form whirlpools causing many deaths a day.

[Muniz] Most organizations of Cuban exiles in the United States do not admit any other solution than the fall of President Fidel Castro. Is it possible to hold some sort of dialogue with those groups? Do you have contacts with them?

[Robaina] I have no contact with them, and I will not have any contact with them, either. Of that I can categorically assure you. If I have to talk to them, I will talk to their leaders, with those who pull the strings, and not with the puppets. The renunciation of socialism, the departure of our democratically elected president, will never be on the negotiating table. A dialogue with the United States is possible, but not with small groups which in most cases are representing only their own opinions and those of their close relatives.

[Muniz] The Cuban population is experiencing difficult times, with an almost absolute lack of the most essential consumer goods. Isn't it time to reverse this situation one way or another?

[Robaina] Difficult times, no. Extremely difficult. We need many things, but the shortage is not absolute. We have survived the worst, and no one remained without food, without clothing, without work, without school, without a doctor, without a social assistance, without a roof. No one. The situation must be reversed, but it will never be one way or another; it will be done one way and not the other. We have a long way ahead of us, filled with difficulties, but both the management and the population are optimistic because we base our strategy on concrete facts, not on utopias. We are not going to change the situation overnight, but we are going to change it gradually.

[Muniz] Cuba systematically attributes most of its problems to the U.S. economic embargo. Meanwhile, Cuban relations with almost all other countries are normal. Does the embargo in fact have so much weight, or is it just a scapegoat?

[Robaina] Do not think that we overvestimate the blockade, that we exaggerate a situation. This is quite real, and now it has been aggravated drastically. Not everything can be blamed on the blockade; that would be chauvinism. There are internal errors, as in any other place. But that we are blockaded in a criminal, immoral, and inhuman

manner is undeniable. It is not true that it is very difficult to negotiate with us. It has already been said that of every 10 businessmen willing to invest, at least eight are discouraged by threats and pressures. The so-called Torricelli Amendment is not a Cuban publicity invention. It exists, and is in effect. Now it is more acute, because there is no more of the socialism which for years has allowed us to smooth the effects of the blockade. Not now. Now we are suffering it with all its force. If it was criminal before, it is a genocide now.

[Muniz] Is there a possibility for Fidel Castro to change his functions, perhaps maintaining leadership but handing the administration over to a professional team?

[Robaina] Your question gives the impression that Castro is the only person managing Cuba. There have always been political and administrative boards, and the decisions are made jointly. The administration is not based on one individual alone, but on many, from grass roots to the national level. You cannot believe everything that is published abroad. Castro enjoys a tremendous authority which he achieved with his history, his attitude, and his behavior minute after minute. He is a lucid thinker and a leader who listens attentively. There are new professionals who joined the team of leaders and who bring new ideas, who enrich work on the basis of seeking collective solutions to collective problems.

[Muniz] Fidel Castro already hinted that he may leave power, perhaps in the near future ("even marathon racers get tired"). Roberto Robaina has already been mentioned by international news agencies as his possible successor...

[Robaina] Fidel, like any other human being, has the right to rest. He has earned it, but he is one of the indispensable men, and as a revolutionary he has no doubts about himself. The children cannot do without their father; if they are true children they will follow him until the end of his days. Everything possessed by my generation owes it to the historical generation. Regarding the succession, it is curious to see some of the work done abroad, speculating on matters that never crossed Cuban minds. It seems they have nothing else to do. Fidel's successor is Raul by virtue of the extraordinary merits he has gained in his political life.

[Muniz] With the pragmatic methods of your work, do you not feel helpless in face of the hard orthodox Cuban policy?

[Robaina] I do not know where you got the conclusion that I am pragmatic and that Cuban policy is orthodox. I know the theory of William James, but I do not believe truth is only valid when it can have a pragmatic effect immediately. There are scientific, religious, and moral truths that are still waiting for their pragmatic effects, but because of this they do not fail to be truths. I could even believe in extraterrestrials without ever even having seen them. About being "hard orthodox," I do not believe we are more orthodox, for example, than the Catholic Church, whose faithful in the early years were thrown to the lions without hesitation for defending its doctrine; and nowaways no one judges negatively the Holy Father who lives in Rome. I am simply convinced that the world can be better, and I struggle every day to improve it. I am convinced that it is worthwhile to struggle to change the current social inequalities and all their consequences, such as misery, illiteracy, unemployment, and other evils. Those who think like that are called communists, and there are some who even take the risk of labeling them as "a species in extinction." They may abolish that word, erase it from the dictionary and the language, but by doing so they will not put out the evils existing on the Earth, and much less eliminate those who continue to struggle for the ideas born deep inside the needs of the large majorities.

[Muniz] What would be Cuba's message to the world now?

[Robaina] Trust Cuba. She will know how to resist and move on. We are struggling so that the word hope will never be erased from the planet.

Commentary Highlights Summit Achievements

PA1807193193 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Roberto Morejon commentary]

[Text] Cuban President Fidel Castro's short but impressive speech and the insertion of a defense of free economic relationships—in an obvious reference to the U.S. blockade against Cuba— in the draft of the final document were the highlights of the first day of the Third Ibero-American Summit in regard to Cuba.

The central idea of the Cuban president's speech was that we were a big colony in the past and that we could be a large community of closely knit nations in the future, which graphically reflected the desire of the Cuban Government and people to integrate.

With this spirit, Fidel Castro went to Salvador, Bahia. Thousands of residents of the old city—an ethnic melting pot as is almost all Brazil—waited for him for many hours prior to his arrival. Perhaps, the many similarities between Brazilians and Cubans, especially in regard to customs, traditions, and culture, can be observed best in Salvador, Bahia.

This is why the city's residents quickly and spontaneously identified themselves with the Cubans in spite of destabilization activities by some Cuban-born hotheads from the U.S. city of Miami.

The efforts made to isolate Cuba did not yield fruits: The Ibero-American foreign ministers included in the Salvador meeting's final document a statement expressing concern over the unilateral measures that a country has adopted to the economic detriment of another.

The agreement expressed in this statement, whose ratification by the chiefs of state is still pending, underlines the rejection that exists regarding the U.S. blockade against Cuba, even if this is not explicitly stated in the document.

Fidel Castro referred to the blockade at the inauguration of the Third Ibero-American summit. He spoke of the island enduring a blockade and being harassed and threatened because it is small and wants social justice.

The Cuban President exhibited his talent for calling a spade a spade, setting rhetoric aside.

As Fidel Castro sees it, we cannot fool ourselves even if praise for economic growth that does not produce real growth prevails in Latin America.

The Cuban leader recalled that today's gross national product is very much what it was 15 years ago, trade deficits have reappeared, and the continent has never seen so many poor people and so much looting.

To find an effective solution, the countries should not try to look after themselves individually. We have to procure agreements because, as Fidel Castro said, the people of the region must create a giant capable of producing development, peace, independence, and security.

Commentary Rejects U.S. Influence in UN

PA1807203893 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Roberto Morejon commentary]

[Text] Why does Latin America not play a more active role in the United Nations? This question, asked by President Fidel Castro at the inauguration of the Third Ibero-American Summit, was not answered in the summit's final document. This comment, however, made a widespread sector of Latin America reflect.

The Cuban leader said the fact is that today the powerful intention to rule the world from the UN Security Council cannot be countered by Latin Americans. Despite the fact that Latin Americans number 400 million, Latin America lacks a permanent representative at the UN Security Council.

Fidel Castro asked at the Third Ibero-American Summit why the subcontinent does not demand that the United Nations be democratizatized and reformed. By asking this, he alluded to a sensitive issue of regional foreign policy to which few want to refer. This happens because there is much pressure exerted by rich countries to ensure that the current structure remains intact or varied very little—perhaps with Germany and Japan joining the Security Council. This is especially true in the case of the United States, the UK, and France, as well as their allies.

That variation would not be sufficient to erase certain things that remain true in this unipolar world, where not even the permanent members of the Security Council use their right to veto because anything that is subject to a veto is simply not voted on.

Since the end of the Cold War, the United States has maintained a tacit and permanent veto to hinder resolutions of a particular interest, especially those that condemn Israel. The favorite U.S. method is to ask the four other UN Security Council permanent members to draft, at their convenience, bill proposals.

The other members of the UN Security Council have seen themselves relegated to play secondary roles, with an irrelevant right to speak at close door meetings and to propose a few amendments or unimportant declarations.

As Fidel Castro pointed out in Salvador, Bahia, when the United Nations began it was formed by 50 countries. Many countries had not yet freed themselves from colonial influences—countries that today are UN members.

That is why there is an unpostponable need to transform current UN structures. The Security Council and Latin America cannot be left on the sideline from the rest of the Third World in this quest, if in fact we want to be fair.

Expatriates in U.S. Plan Destabilizaiton in Cuba

PY1707144093 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 15 Jul 93 p 9

[Article by "CJT"]

[Text] "Operation Cojimar," commanded by anti-Castroist Cuban expatriates in Miami, was launched yesterday at 0000 (Brasilia time) [0300 GMT]. The operation plans an invasion of paramilitary groups to Cuba and "going out in the streets beating pots and pans" [panelacos] in Havana, in a move to "destabilize the country," while Fidel Castro is in Bahia State for the Ibero-American Summit.

Andres Nazario, secretary general of "Alpha 66" paramilitary group, gave this information to FOLHA DE SAO PAULO by telephone. The aforementioned group holds guerrilla-style drills in the Everglades (Southern Florida State) every week.

Roundup of Politburo Members' Activities 9-16 Jul

FL1707114793

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on the activities of members of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] carried on Havana Radio and Television in Spanish between 9 July and 16 July.

Radio Rebelde at 2300 GMT on 9 July reports that Division General Ulises Rosales del Toro visited a communication command and toured several Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR] classrooms. This visit is part of the ministerial control which several FAR units of the Central Army have been carrying out since March. This same newscast reports that Pedro Ross Leal attended a ceremony in honor of the Italian Workers Confederation where a great campaign of solidarity with Cuba was launched. The cast further reports that in Santiago de Cuba, Esteban Lazo attended the inaugural ceremony of an exhibit of weaponry used by Fidel Castro during the Sierra Maestra campaign.

Radio Rebelde at 0900 GMT on 10 July reports that at a meeting to analyze the sugar planting campaign in Pinar del rio, Ricardo Alarcon declared that the government organization should make sure that all sugar complexes meet their planting goals. Alarcon underscored that the next General Assembly will be held in December to analyze the achievements for the year despite the difficulties.

Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision at 0000 GMT on 12 July report that Roberto Robaina greeted UNESCO Director General Federico Mayor at Jose Marti Airport upon the latter's arrival in Cuba today. During his Cuban visit, Mayor will inaugurate the new Serrana television station in Granma Province.

Radio Reloj at 0130 GMT on 12 July reports that Esteban Lazo highlighted the importance of municipal self-sufficiency in cutting transportation costs. Lazo made the statement during the Municipal Assembly of the Communist Party of Cuba in Mella Municipality.

Radio Rebelde at 1700 GMT on 12 July reports that Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina attended a meeting of the 10th UNESCO regional conference which opened today in Havana. This same newscast reports that Candido Palmero attended an agricultural meeting in Havana where

ways to obtain greater sugarcane yields per plant as well as the fulfillment of sugarcane tasks were discussed.

Radio Rebelde at 0900 GMT on 13 July reports that Esteban Lazo told agriculture and cooperative farmer officials in Santiago de Cuba that current emphasis is on harvesting as much coffee as possible, in view of the country's needs.

Radio Rebelde at 1700 GMT on 13 July reports that Ricardo Alarcon attended a meeting of the National Assembly of People's Government in Havana, where a standing committee on services was established.

Radio Reloj at 1940 GMT on 13 July reports that during a visit to Villa Clara's concrete railroad tie factory, Cuban Workers Federation Secretary General Pedro Ross Leal highlighted the progress made by the factory since it took measures to improve work organization.

Radio Rebelde at 2300 GMT on 13 July reports that Division General Ulises Rosales del Toro participated in a meeting of the National Bureau of the Union of Young Communists, UJC, at the Camilo Cienfuegos Artillery School. Rosales said the UJC must prepare its members in the defense of the Revolution.

Radio Progreso at 1100 GMT on 14 July reports that Jorge Lezcano was present at a ceremony in Havana where the UNESCO official, Federico Mayor, was awarded the honor of being an illustrious guest.

Radio Rebelde at 1700 GMT on 14 July reports that at the UJC National Politburo debates in Havana, Division General Ulises Rosales del Torro stressed the importance of the younger generation knowing about Cuban history.

Radio Reloj at 1935 GMT on 14 July reports that Pedro Ross praised the efforts of construction workers in Villa Clara in the construction of low-cost housing units.

Radio Rebelde at 1700 GMT on 15 July reports that in Havana, Jose Ramon Machado attended an analysis meeting of the first seven months of the existence of the labor justice commissions, which have solved the majority of conflicts in the work centers.

Radio Rebelde at 0900 GMT on 16 July reports that Carlos Rafael Rodriguez received a certificate as founder of the Cuban Journalist Union to mark its 30th anniversary.

Star Dancer Defects, Seeks Political Asylum in Spain

PA1707155993 Paris AFP in Spanish 1120 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Text] Madrid, 17 Jul (AFP) - EL PAIS reports that Ruben Rodriguez, the star dancer of the Cuban school of modern dancing and one of Cuba's most important artists, has requested political asylum.

Ruben Rodriguez, 34, requested political asylum on 14 July after spending several months in Germany where he was dancing, the newspaper added. The information has not been officially confirmed.

"It has been a natural decision. I was encouraged by my experience in democratic Europe. I have become disenchanted," declared Rodriguez in an interview published on 17 July.

"My girlfriend was Mariela, the daughter of Raul Castro and Vilma Espin. We lived three years in Raul's home. The truth is that I never really became part of the family, they did not like me. I saw the double life political leaders lead, the privileges," the star dance added. Rodriguez would like to form a dance group.

"Alicia Alonso is the only person who can work under that system where politics is mixed with art. My fellow dancers and choreographers are desperate to leave Cuba," he concluded.

New Flight Links Milan to Cayo Largo

FL1707011793 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 2220 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] An (Air Europa) Boeing 767 took off on its new, inaugural, direct flight to Cayo Largo del Sur, Cuba, at 1220 hours Milan, Italy time. After almost 11 hours of quiet flight, the plane landed on the runway at Cayo Largo, one of the nation's most heavily-trafficked.

Henceforth, this flight will leave Italy every Wednesday, and after touching down in Cayo Largo, will continue on to Varadero. There were Italian tour operators and tourism sector journalists on this inaugural flight. With this new airline, Cayo Largo is, for the first time, linked directly to Europe—which, in the opinion of specialists, opens broad prospects for tourism in this part of southern Cuba, which already has direct flights to Mexico and Canada.

Inter-Caribbean Affairs

Trinidad, Tobago Cabinet Approves Caricom Document

FL1807222393 Bridgetown CANA in English 2102 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, July 18, CANA—The Trinidad and Tobago cabinet has approved a procedure that will allow the draft of a proposed Caribbean Community (Caricom) charter of civil society to be circulated among nongovernmental organisations, trade unions, politicial parties, and members of the public for their views. Foreign Affairs Minister Ralph Maraj told CANA the draft was presented to and accepted by Caricom heads of government at their annual summit in the Bahamas earlier this month.

"It is a very important document which will be bringing the interest, views, and concerns of the people directly into the integration process," he said. "We're trying to bridge that gap.... because the general complaint is that Caricom has become too bureaucratic and we're trying to change that."

The Caricom charter of civil society was a recommendation made by the defunct West Indian Commission, which, at the request of the Caricom heads, carried out a review of the regional integration, and made proposals for its improvement.

Maraj said there was a direct nexus between the charter and the assembly of caribbean parliamentarians, expected to be inaugurated later this year.

"I expect that many of the issues that could be discussed at the assembly will have their basis in the principles and ideals of the charter," he said.

Pindling Calls For End to Cold War Thinking on Cuba

FL1607173993 Bridgetown CANA in English 1603 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] Nassau, Bahamas, July 16, CANA—Former Prime Minister Sir Lynden Pindling has warned that unless a policy of isolation towards Cuba is changed as a matter of urgency, the consequences for Caribbean people will be disastrous. In an address to the second Euromoney Cuba Conference in Cancun, Mexico, which was obtained by CANA, Sir Lynden called for an end to "cold war thinking" as it related to Havana. The current opposition leader, Sir Lynden was critical of United States policy towards the communist country. He said ultimately an isolationist policy could cause economic damage to U.S. business and wreak havoc in the rest of the Caribbean.

"For example, the tourism industry in the Bahamas only began because of the economic quarantine of Cuba," he added. This quarantine, he continued, would surely end. If it ended now while Cuban tourism was still finding its feet, the Bahamas would be able to integrate its industry into that of Cuba to the benefit of both countries, Sir Lynden said. But if the continuing embargo forecloses this possibility, and Cuban tourism develops independently of that of the Bahamas, then the eventual lifting will spell a sharp downturn in arrivals and increased hardship for the people, he argued. There is no doubt, he said, that exactly the same is true for every other tourist economy in the Caribbean.

"Time is not on our side. The Cuban tourist industry provides vacationers with a totally exotic experience. Cuba offers, and threatens to surpass, everything available in all other regional destinations combined...," Sir Lynden said.

He spoke of the strong cultural elements, friendly efficient service, distinctive cuisine, the finest rums and tobacco, and a variety of fresh tropical fish, fruit, and vegetables. All of these, said Sir Lynden, were offered with a rich variety of diversions ranging from hunting to ballet, to create a product of "awesome potential." Not only is Cuban tourism also well advanced, but investment in other areas of the cuban economy was proceeding apace, he said.

"Mexico's leadership in Cuban touristic and other industrial development is well-known. But what may not be as well-known is that, of all the Latin nations, Mexico is the most integrated into the economies of the Pacific," sir lynden said. Mexico, therefore, was well-placed to provide entrees for Asian investors to the Caribbean region if U.S. business was forced to remain on the sidelines, he said.

"Such a development would undoubtedly be a boom to Pacific business interests, but it would prove a dead weight loss to American entrepreneurs and potentially catastrophic for small countries in this region."

Cuba, said Sir Lynden, was actively and successfully attracting international investment to a range of industries so large that they filled a 75-page directory. Sir Lynden said the Cuban work-force was well-educated, highly motivated, culturally integrated, and enjoyed considerable productive advantages over the region as a whole. Years of authoritarian rule and military preparedness had given the Cuban worker a standard of discipline and performance unmatched in the Caribbean, he said. Cubans were relatively low waged, highly skilled, and usually boast a college education, said Sir Lynden.

Carrington: 'Unfavorable Review' of Caricom Achievements

FL1607171593 Bridgetown CANA in English 1450 GMT 16 Jul 93

[By Linda Hutchinson]

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, July 16, CANA—The secretary general of the Caribbean Community (Caricom), Dr. Edwin Carrington on Thursday [15 July] gave an unfavourable review of the community's achievement in its 20-year existence.

"Overall, taking a dispassionate and objective view of the achievements so far in the narrow domain of economic integration, despite some important achievements, it is difficult to conclude otherwise than that Caricom has failed in its two decades so far to achieve the objectives, meet the aspirations of the people and fulfill the hopes of its founding fathers," Carrington told members of the Trinidad and Tobago Media Association (MATT).

Speaking on the topic: "20 Years of Caricom, What Next?" the head of the Guyana-based Caricom secretariat noted that some achievements made in the area of economic integration included the increase in intra-regional trade from 3 percent to the current 10 percent. Intra-regional trade reached its highest in 1981 when it increased to 13 percent. Another major success reported by the secretary general was the Common External Tariff (CET), a tax structure affecting extra-regional imports. However, Carrington noted that two member states had not implemented the new rate structure agreed upon at a special Caricom summit last October.

Carrington also said the treaty's provisions, which confer preferential treatment over third countries, "fall short" of what was required of a single market and economy. He said the fundamental area of policies and planning which was relevant to a single market, "have been honoured sadly more in the breach...."

Carrington said there had been very little consultation of economic policies while there had been marginal implementation of the harmonisation of fiscal incentives.

"We cannot tolerate in the coming decade the failures of the past, especially in the area of economic integration which we must admit we did not succeed in passing," he told journalists.

The Caricom official said new institutions and mechanisms including those agreed at the recently-concluded summit in the Bahamas and new policy approaches would have to be designed and brought to the fore.

"Secondly, while I agree fully with the diagnoses of inadequate implementation of decisions.... I think there is much more to the problem and to the process of Caribbean Community building than merely implementing decisions taken," he remarked.

Carrington said the single most critical item was a change of how the community functioned and a fuller participation of the people.

Trade Unions Protest Exclusion From Regional Reforms

FL1807220693 Bridgetown CANA in English 1926 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, July 18, CANA—The 13-member Caribbean Public Services Association (CPSA) is accusing regional governments of leaving them out of the decisionmaking process.

"The region's governments have been proceeding with administrative reform programmes without consulting with the respective public service trade unions," said CPSA general secretary Joseph Goddard. Concerns about implementation of reforms, which could mean reductions in jobs and pay, were a hot topic at this week's 23d annual CPSA conference which ended here Friday [16 July]. Goddard said the association was not objecting to reforms because they believed they were necessary.

"But we must object to and condemn the decisions of the region's governments in excluding the trade union movement. They talk about tripartism, but when the time comes to get decisions that reflect the rhetoric, they do not deliver, said Goddard. The trade unionist said it was agreed an approach should be made for CPSA representation on a working group on public sector reform involving the Caribbean Commuity (Caricom) secretariat and the Caribbean Centre for Development Administration (Caricad).

The CPSA official said the association was angry with the Vere Bird government in Antigua and Barbuda, for reducing maternity leave of public workers. Goddard added the government in St. John's used legislation to nullify an agreement it had on leave with a trade union. Such behaviour could not be tolerated, the CPSA official remarked.

The Cheddi Jagan government in Guyana was also criticised by the CPSA for alleged unilateral changes to the rules of the public service commission "without any consultation whatsoever." Goddard said the association would be writing the governments of Antigua and Barbuda and Guyana to underscore its concerns on the matters mentioned. He said the CPSA would continue to place emphasis on training and education by offering four major scholarhsips.

"We also took a decision to examine the possibility of establishing a regional mecidare scheme for public sector workers," the trade unionist added, without elaboration.

Official Announces Departure of PRC Aliens

Repatriation Terms, Logistics

PA1707131693 Mexico City XHTV Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Report by Jaime Nieto in Ensenada, Baja California]

[Text] The Government Secretariat has announced in Ensenada the terms and logistics necessary to carry out the repatriation of 659 illegal PRC aliens, who—it has been reported—will arrive at this port on the evening of 16 July.

Jorge Medina, social communications director of the Government Secretariat, reported that authorities of the Foreign Secretariat, Communications and Transportation Secretariat, and Navy Secretariat will participate in the operation.

Five Mexican Navy boats have departed to lead the three PRC boats into Ensenada. Upon arrival, the illegal PRC aliens will be taken to Tijuana in a convoy of 28 buses, which will be protected and escorted along different points of the route by 50 patrol cars of the Federal Highway and Port Police. These patrol cars represent part of the 250 vehicles mobilized for the land and air operation.

The land transfer to Tijuana is being coordinated by federal, state, and municipal authorities. Referring to the air operation, the Government Secretariat reported a technical mechanism has been established to minimize the flight time—seeking, above all, to guarantee the safety of the illegal PRC aliens.

All the illegal PRC aliens will be deported to their country of origin. The PRC Government has already accepted the illegal aliens' repatriation.

The boat crews will be arrested upon arrival at Ensenada and the boats will be confiscated.

Three Flights Depart

PA1807230893 Paris AFP in Spanish 2119 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Text] Mexico City, 18 Jul (AFP)—The Mexican Government "did not yield to pressures from other countries" in allowing over 659 Chinese to disembark temporarily, Deputy Foreign Under Secretary Andres Rosenthal said on Sunday, 18 July, while announcing 590 of them had already been sent to their country on three flights.

During a news conference in Mexico City, Rosenthal read an official statement on the three vessels carrying undocumented Chinese that 10 days ago approached the northern Mexican coast with the intention of entering the United States.

Rosenthal said that the three ships docked between Saturday and today at Ensenada Port, Baja California State, and that three flights have already left for China carrying the illegal aliens. Only 69 Chinese remain, and they will be repatriated on a fourth flight, possibly by the Mexican Air Force, in a few hours, he added.

"Mexico did not yield at any moment to pressures from other countries, nor did it subordinate its national interests to those of any state," but instead acted "on its own initiative and for humanitarian reasons," the statement affirmed to counter reports that the United States reportedly "forced" the local authorities to receive the Chinese.

After recalling Mexico's "great tradition of hospitality to refugees and politically persecuted individuals," the official statement noted that when the problem of the Chinese immigrants began 10 days ago, Washington asked the Mexican Government to allow "the undocumented Chinese to be received on our national territory. Mexico flatly refused" the request "out of respect for national sovereignty, international law, and Mexican immigration laws," the statement noted, adding that this country "has nothing to do with the unfolding of this problem" since "none of the Chinese sought to come to Mexico; their objective was to enter the United States."

The Mexican Government accepted it afterward "in view of the repeated refusal" by the United States and "the deterioration of the conditions of the undocumented Chinese aboard the ships," in a "triple challenge" that also sought to "face once and for all the criminal organizations that promote the international trafficking of humans for economic gain when they directly affect Mexican interests and laws," it added. It further indicated that the repatriation of the Chinese was conducted "based on full respect for human rights," the vessels were seized by the authorities and "its crew members and traffickers immediately arrested."

On this matter, Rosenthal said that 17 persons have already been arrested and will be tried for charges that include the illegal trafficking of foreigners, based on the General Population Law, which establishes prison sentences of from two to 10 years. He added that traffickers "in numbers that we still do not yet know," who were aboard the third Chinese vessel that docked in Ensenada at 1200 [1700 GMT], have not yet been arrested. The official then added that they will also be punished "as severely as Mexican laws allow."

The statement stressed that the measures adopted by the country tried to provide "a humanitarian solution to the Chinese citizens and at the same time an example of firmness with severe punishment to the traffickers of human beings, the crew members, and the owners of the vessels by seizing the three vessels."

When asked about the alleged presence of three more vessels packed with Chinese off the Chiapas Coast, south of Mexico, Rosenthal dismissed the press reports and noted those vessels were the same ones that had been reportedly sighted off the Hawaiian coast in the United States.

Costa Rica

Government Rejects Charges of Labor Violations

PA1707043593 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2353 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] San Jose, 16 Jul (NOTIMEX)—The Costa Rican Government told the United States on 16 July that it rejected accusations made by U.S. unions affiliated with the AFL-CIO [American Federation of Labor and the Congress of Industrial Organizations] of alleged labor rights violations, official sources indicated.

The AFL-CIO asked that San Jose be excluded from the Caribbean Basin Initiative and the investment corporation for alleged hostile actions against local labor organizations. The AFL-CIO based its charges on information provided by Costa Rican unions, which Gonzalo Facio, Costa Rica's ambassador to Washington, said was inaccurate.

The top U.S. labor organization repeated the charges by Costa Rican unions that the government is promoting so-called support (solidaristas) associations created by businessmen to counter unions.

In a 400-page document delivered to the U.S. Embassy in San Jose, President Rafael Angel Caldera's administration "demonstrates that it has not failed to abide by its commitments to workers," Facio said. In addition, the 12 cases mentioned by the unions are not true, are incorrect, or were handled at the appropriate time by the Costa Rican Labor and Social Security Ministry, Facio added.

The local authorities noted that Costa Rica is a country where "freedom and democracy are fundamental political values to be protected and developed and the right of free association is guaranteed by the Constitution."

The AFL-CIO charge reflects the organization's opposition to support groups, a type of labor organization that competes with unions for workers' support, the sources indicated.

On this matter, the Labor and Social Security Ministry stressed that "the worker decides whether or not to join" a union or support association.

Costa Rica insists in its reply that Convention 135 of the International Labor Organization "guarantees free organization and free negotiations" with workers.

Ambassador Facio will present the U.S. Commerce Department official who received the AFL-CIO charge with a copy of the document originally delivered by Carlos Monge, labor and social security minister, to U.S. Charge d'Affaires Donald Harrington.

Costa Rica's expulsion from the Generalized System of Preferences and the Caribbean Basin Initiative would deprive it of the commercial benefits granted by the United States.

Guatemala

Defense Minister Announces Plans, Changes

PA1607173493 Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO in Spanish 15 Jul 93 p 3

[Text] Defense Minister Division General Mario Enriquez, who was accompanied by the chief and the spokesperson of the Information and Press Department of the Army (Dide), on 14 July presented to the media a list of projects the Army must carry out according to the government's 180-day plan; adding that "these projects are few, considering the corps' capability to handle more."

He mentioned the three most important projects: First, the construction of the Playa Grande highway, meaning the Salajuin-Cubilwitz highway, where the Corps of Engineers has already advanced 15 km. The project is being complemented with work being carried out on the same highway between Coban and Cubilwitz, so each project in the area will involve an area of 42 km.

The second project is the road between Salama, Alta Verapaz, and the capital, passing through Canoa—where the Army has advanced several km, supported by the U.S. Armed Forces and its Fuertes Caminos plan.

The program—which began in January and will conclude in June—allowed them to repair and build schools, repair the regional hospital, and dig five wells for the people.

The third most important project refers to the broadening and improvement of the road between San Marcos and Tacana.

Moreover, he said other projects include the improvement of Army barracks—for example, the facilities in Santa Elena, Peten—and the construction of the 12th Military Zone, headquartered in Santa Lucia Cotzumalguapa, Escuintla Department.

There are also investments to extend and maintain a permanent program for human rights education, including everyone—from generals to soldiers, from military commissioners to voluntary self-defense patrol members—who previously received instruction on the issue.

Finally, the work includes a national reforestation plan that will be oriented mainly toward the Chixoy basin, where there are no trees—although between 2 million and 3 million trees are expected to be planted in a year.

The new Armed Forces chief of information, Colonel Alvaro Rivas, officially announced on 14 July changes in the Dide and the Defense Ministry's General Staff. Col. Rivas replaced Commander Julio Alberto Yon Rivera on 1 July; and Commander Erwin Guzman Ovalle replaced Lieutenant Colonel Erick Guzman Anleu as assistant chief of Dide.

Rivas said that, within the necessary reorganization carried out in that department, Major Edith Vargas de Marroquin will also work as spokesperson of the corps and personal spokesperson of the defense minister.

Moreover, given the confusion caused by the alleged transfer of Lt. Col. Jose Fernandez Ligorria, assistant director of the National Police and currently acting director, Rivas said Ligorria will replace Col. Marco Antulio Fuentes as chief of the defense minister's personal staff.

Rivas said that Gen. Francisco Ortega Melando, former chief of staff in the Serrano administration, will continue to work at Military Zone 17-15, which is headquartered in Quezaltenango.

Guerrillas Respond to President's Peace Proposal

PA1607235393 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2156 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] Mexico City, 16 Jul (NOTIMEX)—The Guatemalan guerrilla leadership announced here on 16 July that it is willing to meet with representatives of the Guatemalan Government and Army to lay the groundwork for a resumption of the peace negotiation process.

The Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG) General Command announced the decision in a document responding to the peace proposal made by Guatemalan President Ramiro De Leon Carpio last week.

In the document, entitled "Resuming the Negotiation Process and Making Progress Toward an Agreement," the URNG valued the government's peace initiative and said it was willing to seek a political solution to the armed confrontation in their country.

The guerrillas said, however, that De Leon Carpio's proposal contains "in-depth structural flaws" because it discounts three years of negotiations in which the Vinicio Cerezo Arevalo and Jorge Serrano Elias administrations were involved.

The rebel command said De Leon Carpio's initiative "fails to recognize the contents of the negotiations and the agreements reached during the process" and "excludes and lessens the value of the conciliator's role, functions, and figure."

The URNG said "the two main issues in the overall negotiations for peace and democracy are separated and disjointed and the format is modified. The logic and negotiation concept of the initiative undermine the process by trying to give it two levels with different meanings."

The Guatemalan Government and guerrilla groups began the peace negotiation process in Oslo, Norway in 1990. The process continued in Spain and Mexico until an agenda was achieved, but the schedule was interrupted when the human rights issue was broached in May.

The rebels' reply is divided into five parts and also lists "constructive" points of the Guatemalan president's peace proposal.

The guerrilla groups accepted and considered valid "a broader format with greater participation by the United Nations and a personal follow-up by the OAS secretary general."

However, the guerrillas clearly said they would accept those conditions provided they "do not oppose the role of the conciliator," a position held by Guatemalan Bishop Rodolfo Quezada Toruno.

The Guatemalan rebels said: "The permanent forum for peace represents an option that allows and guarantees the irreplaceable participation of civilian groups" in the negotiations.

"The permanent forum for peace has the right to participate through a delegation of observers made up according to the procedure established by the conciliator" in the negotiations.

The URNG said "the peace conciliator is the right person to convoke and direct this forum, and he must also be ratified as conciliator of the overall process."

"All the groups that make up Guatemalan society must share the task of democratizing the country, making civilian society prevail over a recalcitrant military power and great economic interests," the URNG reply states. It is signed by the guerrilla groups' general command.

The Guatemalan president presented a peace initiative on 8 July and proposed that the negotiations be conducted in Guatemalan territory. A safe-conduct report could be issued to URNG representatives for that purpose.

Private Sector Expresses 'Concern' About Peace Proposal

PA1707142293 Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO in Spanish 16 Jul 93 p 6

[Text] The organized private sector expressed its concern on 15 July regarding the circumstances in which President Ramiro De Leon Carpio presented his peace proposal. Carlos Vielmann Montes, the president of the Chamber of Industry and director of the Coordinating Committee for Agriculture, Commercial, Financial and Industrial Associations, affirmed on 15 July that the proposal "promotes the rupture of the country's constitutional and legal order."

He added that the peace proposal presented by the new president is more a theoretical statement than a initiative that responds to the Guatemalan reality.

Vielmann Montes pointed out that in order to implement said peace plan, it would be necessary to break the law by establishing immunity for "a group of criminals."

"This proposal is unacceptable from all points of view. It is surprising that following the historic struggle of the Guatemalan people to recover their institutionality and constitutional order after the coup d'etat, concessions and privileges are granted to a group that has not demonstrated its will to achieve peace and democracy during the crisis," he said.

For this high-ranking leader of the organized private sector, the proposal grants the guerrillas the unique privilege of sitting at the negotiating table bearing their weapons, which is not only illegal, but also intimidating.

The organized business sector, a strong defender of constitutionality and the law, is willing to support any peace effort, as long as it comes within constitutional order, he said.

Carlos Vielmann concluded by encouraging the government and the criminal subversive groups to begin talks on disarmament and demobilization immediately so the guerrillas can reenter the legal way of life.

Nicaragua

State Department Spokesman's Remarks Create 'Turmoil'

PA1607172793 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2200 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Text] The remarks made on 14 July by the U.S. State Department spokesman have caused turmoil in political

circles. The spokesman remarked that there is no U.S. economic aid in sight for Nicaragua until the government decidedly controls the security institutions, the Army, and the police. This situation has changed the rules of the negotiations taking place with the government, National Opposition Unity [UNO] politicians have stated. Among these is UNO coordinator Roberto Urroz, who express his opinion on this matter. Here is what Urroz said:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Does this affect UNO's position in its relations with the government?

[Urroz] I believe that this situation is the result of the government's improper handling of the situation; it removed itself from the forces that brought it to power. [Words indistinct] UNO, and that during all these years it has been cogoverning with the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN]. [Words indistinct] have been tolerant and complaisant of many FSLN attitudes. Among these is the presence of internationalist individuals, terrorists, who have used the national territory with the FSLN's approval in the past. This has been tolerated by the government. The Santa Rosa explosion incident undoubtedly gave clear evidence that Salvadoran guerrillas and internationalists are still on the national territory. We do not know how many more there are. From the evidence, from the documents found there belonging to international terrorism, it is demonstrated that the Nicaraguan Government does not have control over the military forces in this country. This has come about because Violeta Chamorro's government did not listen to the people's call, it did not listen to the call of [words indistinct] politicians, to dismiss General Humberto Ortega from the beginning, when it assumed power. This is the result [passage indistinct] on Nicaragua, [words indistinct] for so much time.

[Reporter] Senator Joseph Biden said they cannot continue to spend U.S. taxpayers' money on a government controlled by the FSLN that has links to international terrorists. What do you have to say about this?

[Urroz] I believe the U.S. Congress has strong reasons [words indistinct] FSLN ties with international terrorism and the tolerance shown by the government. If the government had acted more forcefully to end this tolerance with the FSLN once and for all, if the government had put order in this country, if civilian authority had control over the military, if ties with internationalists had ended, and if the government had prevented its national territory from being used for these types of things, then we could open up new room for better relations between the United States and Nicaragua.

[Reporter] Are you going to continue to negotiate with President Violeta Chamorro?

[Urroz] We told the president in the fourth round of talks that we saw no evidence that the government had any political commitment to reaching agreements. We said that once we saw this evidence we would return to the negotiation table. She invited us to participate in the talks on 21 July. She sent us a letter, which is supposedly a [words indistinct]. It has made our decisionmaking process more difficult. We are always open to the search for solutions to national problems, but we are not going to lend ourselves for talks in which the government only wants to gain time. We do not want to participate in talks just to get foreign aid or just to say that the Nicaraguan Government is a government that holds dialogues. We want firm agreements that can be fulfilled and verified. We want a commission that can guarantee these agreements so that the national problems can be effectively solved for the benefit of the country.

[Reporter] This confirms the position of the Episcopal Conference when it says that UN mediation through the deployment of its forces would be feasible. The United States currently is saying that a political group has maintained control over the country's security forces. Is this not a point in favor of the proposal made by the Episcopal Conference?

[Urroz] I believe it is a point in favor of the Episcopal Conference's position. Some groups have accused us of being extreme rightists, but actually the situation here is so difficult, so anarchical in which life is worth nothing in many parts of the country and in which international terrorism has been setting up in Nicaragua that we need to create an awareness among the different sectors about the need to send UN forces to this country as the Episcopal Conference said. [passage indistinct] If the government corrects its course, there would be no need for these [words indistinct]. [end recording]

Pallais Rejects Reports on Conditions for U.S. Aid

PA1707180493 Managua Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 0230 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] Conditions have not been established for Nicaragua to receive U.S. aid, Jose Pallais, Nicaraguan acting foreign minister, said today. Here is what Pallais said:

[Begin Pallais recording] I can categorically state that I have in my hands the official statement given to me by the U.S. State Department spokesman. These statements are completely contrary to some press agency cables that I also have seen and that have been published in the local media. The United States has never conditioned its aid to Nicaragua, and, in any case, we would not accept conditions. Mr. Goddard [U.S. Embassy official] was invited to a meeting at the Foreign Ministry. He brought with him the official text, on which I base my statements. There are no conditions set and no conditions would be accepted by the Nicaraguan Government. [end recording]

Jose Pallais made reference to the Santa Rosa weapons cache incident indicating that a report has been issued to the governments concerned.

[Begin Pallais recording] We have requested that Interpol coordinate the work group, which will allow each local police institution to progress in their own investigation of the situation. In this way, these local institutions can feed information back to the central work group so that these investigations....[pauses] because this has to do with incidents that have occurred here and in other nations [words indistinct] very active, we require constant feedback. [end recording].

Pallais said the Nicaraguan Government is very interested in clearing up the incidents and that the National Police have demonstrated professionalism in the case.

[Begin Pallais recording] It was the National Police that found the documents that are now making the headlines. These documents were found over two months ago. It was

the National Police that delivered these documents to the legal system, and it is the National Police that is sharing this information with all the friendly governments. That is, the conduct of Nicaraguan officials is in keeping with the professionalism expected from them and in keeping with the commitment of the Nicaraguan Government, the military, and police forces to combat terrorism, regardless of its origin. [end recording]

UNO, FSLN Officials on Dialogue, U.S. Measures

PA1707161993 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 1030 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] On 15 July, "The Awakening" newscast began a poll among leaders of the National Opposition Union [UNO], the Sandinist Sandinist Liberation Front [FSLN], and the government to learn what impact the announcement on the measures adopted by the U.S. Department of State has had on the different areas of our national life.

As you well know, the U.S. Department of State reported in a clear and pertinent way that the U.S. Government has suspended all economic aid to the Nicaraguan Government until it is clearly shown that civilian power prevails over military power.

Nicaragua's military situation deeply worries the United States and the weapons cache in Santa Rosa, where information was found linking the weapons with the attack on the World Trade Center in New York, has worried the U.S. Government, the House of Representatives, and the U.S. media even more. They claim taxpayers' money can no longer be given to a regime that has ties with terrorist groups all over the world.

UNO Political Coordinator Roberto Urroz on 15 July said time had run out and the letter received from President Violeta Chamorro, inviting them to a dialogue on 21 July included negative aspects, rather than positive aspects.

Moreover, FSLN Deputy Jose Leon Talavera told "The Awakening" that the days of military dictatorships were over and it was time people understood civilian power should prevail over military power—which must be subordinated to the former as the only way to achieve progress and enter the 21st century.

Panama

Christian Democrats Reject Alliance With Government, PRD

PA1707032593 Panama City CRITICA LIBRE in Spanish 16 Jul 93 p 10

[Article by Florencio Galvez F.]

[Text] The Christian Democratic Party (PDC) Political Committee has issued a communique rejecting alliances with progovernment or Democratic Revolutionary Party [PRD] forces.

According to the PDC, progovernment and PRD forces represent "the uses and abuses of the past and represent that which Panamanians must overcome to establish" a path of well-being and hope.

Regarding the upcoming election for the Legislative Assembly Board of Directors, the PDC "will nominate its own candidates to guarantee greater independence of this state branch," as well as legislative work with a "sense of social renovation and morality for the future."

It has been learned in political circles that Guillermo A. Cochez, Jr., Keith Holder, Domi Luis Montenegro, and Jose "Pepe" Hill are among the possible candidates who will participate in the election of Legislative Assembly Board of Directors.

Minister Announces Creation of Two Naval Stations

PA1707222993 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 17 Jul 93 p 14

[Article by David Daniel Victoria]

[Text] Minister of Government and Justice Juan B. Chevalier announced 16 July the establishment of two naval stations on the Colombian border to deter drug trafficking and trafficking of persons. This is part of a joint operation with Colombia.

Various naval stations will be built, one on San Miguel Island in Las Perlas Archipelago and the other in Puerto Obaldia on the Atlantic Coast. These bases will be used "in a joint operation with the Colombian Navy, each naval force will patrol its side of the border to prevent people fleeing Colombians from entering Panamanian territory."

Chevalier indicated that there is money in the budget to build the aforementioned stations. However, he continued, "we now have to open a bid for the construction of the installations." He added that "unfortunately, when a facility is to be built, one must first have the blueprints and land in hand and later call for the bid, because the Comptroller General's Office may reject the project." He explained that "this is not fair because no budget allotment can be approved without a specific purpose."

The Governments of Panama and Colombia have held conversations on border issues to reach a joint cooperation agreement to safeguard and protect border areas, Chevalier said. He said further that in a recent meeting with the Colombian defense minister, they exchanged information on what is being done to protect border areas and what equipment they have to achieve the goal. "We are working to reach an understanding that will permit us to work together," he argued.

The government and justice minister remarked that a document is being prepared to put in black and white how "we are going to work" to avoid differences, disputes, and frictions which must not exist between the two countries. To that end, another meeting will be held with the defense minister in Colombia to discuss the preparation of the final project.

The project contemplates general aspects of joint cooperation between both nations, the Panamanian Public Force and the Colombian Army, particularly because there are "guerrillas" in that area, Chevalier asserted. He noted that there is a sense of cooperation and this is what we want to highlight in the document. The government and justice minister concluded that this information should not be limited to ministers but should be disseminated to all organizations of both countries.

Maritime Service Captures 2 Colombian Boats in Local Waters

PA1707202993 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 17 Jul 93 p 3A

[Report by Elio Rujano]

[Text] Jose Rosas Rosas, National Maritime Service (SMN) director, has reported that Panama's SMN vessels on 16 July captured two Colombian boats that were fishing illegally in Darien Province waters on the evening of 15 July.

Lieutenant Commander Rosas stated that the boats were sighted by National Air Service (SAN) aircraft, which passed the word to the SMN.

The Colombian boats, one "small-sized boat" [parguera] and one "medium-sized boat" [bolichera] (as they are known in Colombia), were captured with their crews on 16 July, as sailors marked the day of their patron saint, namely La Virgen del Carmen.

"What better way for Panamanian sailors to mark their day with a capture such as this one," Government and Justice Minister Juan Chevalier expressed.

The two ships were docked at Flamenco Island, headquarters of the SMN, while a graduation ceremony was held there.

The lieutenant commander did not want to specify the time or place where the two boats were captured, but he asserted that they were illegally fishing in Panamanian territorial waters in Darien.

Rosas said that currently Panama has a large number of patrol boats that permit authorities to safeguard territorial waters, although he emphasized that illegal fishing and the entry of drug traffickers is impossible to control due to the expanse of the sea.

The SMN director explained that this year no cases of piracy have been reported, as was the case in 1990, 1991, and 1992.

Regarding illegal fishing in Chiriqui Province by Costa Rican fishermen, Rosas said that last year six Costa Rican boats were captured and 10 Panamanian boats are patrolling the area.

"The SMN is now in the final stage of purchasing a lot of land in the area of Quebrada de Piedra to build a base that will cover the area of Veraguas and Chiriqui Provinces permanently," Rosas concluded.

Argentina

Menem, Di Tella Return From Summit; Cuban Situation Noted

PY1807031493 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0031 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 17 Jul (NA)—Argentine Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella said this afternoon that the U.S. economic embargo against Cuba "was not the important issue" of the Third Ibero-American Summit held in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil. He made this comment at the metropolitan airport, upon returning with the delegation headed by President Carlos Menem.

Di Tella said that it seems that "what is happening in Cuba is because of the embargo," and added that if there were no economic reprisals the situation in Cuba would not change substantially.

Di Tella, who was in charge of improvising a news conference in the military sector of the metropolitan airport, said that the summit had been "the most important" held so far.

He added that the most important results of this type of meeting cannot be found in official documents, but "in the impromptu meetings" held by the presidents.

The Argentine delegation that attended the summit arrived at 1700 in the Tango-1 presidential airplane at the military sector of Jorge Newbery Metropolitan Airport.

Although President Menem made no comments, he agreed to pose for pictures with Di Tella for the press.

"Argentina is already a recognized leader nation" in Latin America, said Di Tella, indicating that this was noticed in the meetings held by Menem with [Spanish Prime Minister] Felipe Gonzalez and [Colombian President] Cesar Gaviria.

Di Tella added that the summit represented progress because of talks on the social development of the Latin American countries and the projects of the Latin American Parliament inaugurated during the summit.

Regarding the thwarted meeting between Menem and Cuban leader Fidel Castro, Di Tella said: "Our president was willing to talk with anyone as long as this was convenient."

In this regard Di Tella said that Cuban demands to lower the level of the Argentine delegation's public statements about the Cuban regime was what prevented the two presidents from meeting.

"When human rights are violated it is our duty to try to reverse that situation," said Di Tella. He added: "The island (Cuba) is sinking in misery."

He pointed out that there should be important changes made in the Cuban regime before cordial relations between the two countries could be resumed.

Bolivia

Paz Returns From Summit, Supports Castro's Solidarity Call

PY1607190693 La Paz Television Nacional Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Excerpts] Amalia Pando, who left for Santa Cruz this morning, happened to be at the airport when President Paz Zamora returned from Brazil after attending the Third Ibero-American Summit. She prepared an exclusive report. The presidential airplane arrived in La Paz early this morning and President Paz Zamora was surprised to see that Amalia Pando was waiting for him in El Alto Airport, ready with her camera.

[Begin recording] [Pando] Good morning, Mr. President; welcome back.

[Paz] Good morning.

[Pando] Was this your last trip abroad as president of the country?

[Paz] No, I still have to conclude the Ilo Port project in Peru. Therefore, I will have to travel to Peru to be with Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori in the Bolivia sea free zone to participate in the international bid for the operation of this port.

[Pando] In other words, that will be your last trip.

[Paz] Yes, that will be my last trip. [passage omitted]

[Pando] Do you have anything to say about the summit you attended?

[Paz] The good news is the big victory of Bolivian diplomacy, the great international victory was the creation of the Indigenous People Development Fund, which has been fully consolidated. The Bolivian proposal was that the basic technology needed for the basic rights of people such as health, education, nutrition, clothing, housing, and basic sanitation be declared a patrimony of humanity.

[Pando] I have no other questions; thank you, Mr. President.

[Paz] Tomorrow I will comment on something interesting that happened in relation to my answer to the speech made by Fidel Castro at the end of the conference.

[Pando] Well, tell me what happened.

[Paz] Well, I thought that news was already here. What happened is that Fidel Castro, who spoke after I did, made a dramatic call to Latin America for solidarity. I then said a few words that in summary referred to ratifying an undeclinable solidarity with Cuba by Latin America, but at the same time pointing out that Cuba should help herself by helping Latin America to help Cuba. In other words, some kind of open call to Cuba to coordinate with Latin America the solidarity that (?Cuba wants)....

[Pando interrupts] That Cuba alone will go nowhere.

[Paz] Exactly. [end recording]

Brazil

Castro Asks Businessmen To Help Improve Cuban Economy

PY1607122393 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] Cuban President Fidel Castro asked Brazilian businessmen to help him improve the Cuban economy through economic cooperation.

Fidel Castro held a meeting behind closed doors with Albano Franco, chairman of the National Confederation of Industries [CNI], in Salvador.

The CNI will conduct a number of economic missions with businessmen of different sectors to assess Castro's proposals.

Castro Gained 'Small' Profit at Ibero-American Summit

PY1707031893 Sao Paulo Rede Bandeirantes Television in Portuguese 2230 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] [Journalist Marilia Gabriela] The Ibero-American Summit declaration includes only implicit criticism of the U.S. embargo against Cuba, like a UN declaration that was released in the past.

Newton Carlos, does that mean that Fidel Castro did not win anything at this summit?

[Analyst Newton Carlos] Look, Gabriela, it's not that. He made a profit, which, although very small, was a profit. Especially because this decision was made here in Latin America in the so-called back yard of the United States, where the United States has direct influence. For the first time Latin American countries have implicitly said that they do not agree with the embargo against Cuba. Now it is necessary to understand this. In 1964, the entire continent adopted economic sanctions against Cuba. Yet those sanctions gradually vanished as of the 1970's, so much so that today all Latin American countries—except for Colombia, for peculiar reasons—have diplomatic, political, and economic relations with Cuba. Only the unilateral U.S. measures are still in force. Such measures have been incorporated into the U.S. laws, forbidding economic relations between Cuba and the United States. This is called blockade, and this is what Latin Americans have begun to refer to as an anachronism.

Federal Police Strike Reportedly '100-Percent Effective'

PY1607184193 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] More than 4,000 Federal Police personnel throughout Brazil went on strike on 15 July. They demand better salaries and improved working conditions.

A review of the first day of the strike shows it was 100-percent effective in the 16 states where it was implemented.

The strike did not, however, interfere with efforts to find PC [entrepreneur Paulo Cesar] Farias nor with the security operation to guard the heads of state at the Third Ibero-American Summit in Salvador.

Nevertheless, all other services were disrupted. Passports, good conduct certificates, and federal permits to carry weapons have not been issued since yesterday.

In spite of a 30-percent skeleton staff at airports, there will be lines and delays in international flights.

Contraband checks on the Friendship Bridge, which links Brazil with Paraguay, have been discontinued.

In Brasilia, the Federal Police observing the strike demonstrated outside the Federal Police Superintendency building where Farias' secretary Rosinete Melanias is being held.

A small group remained on duty at the Brasilia airport but no passports were issued.

The strike leaders assess that 95 percent of the Federal Police personnel are observing the strike in the Federal District.

In Parana State, the 480 federal police are observing the strike with just a few agents on duty. Checks on the entry and departure of people on the Paraguayan and Argentine borders continue, but delays are being experienced.

In Belo Horizonte, the 80 federal police deposited their weapons and bullet-proof vests in boxes and left them at the Federal Police Trade Union headquarters where they will remain until the end of the strike.

In Minas Gerais State, Federal Police personnel will participate in the Movement Against Hunger [Movimento Contra a Fome]. Every Federal Police agent will take 1 kg of food to the superintendency headquarters. The food will be donated to a social assistance organization.

Finance Minister Warns Salary Bill 'Must Be Vetoed'

PY1807005093 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Report by Antonio Carlos Silva from Salvador, Bahia State]

[Text] Finance Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso today stressed in Salvador that the government is willing to negotiate the salary policy. He said that the bill approved by the Chamber of Deputies, involving monthly inflation-adjusted salary corrections, must be vetoed.

According to the finance minister, the monthly inflation-adjusted salary corrections may cause hyperinflation, and the Social Security Ministry has no way of paying adjustments to retirees.

During a meeting here in Salvador, Cardoso today presented a Treasury financial report to President Itamar Franco.

[Begin recording] I just indicated the possibilities, the conditions, and the consequences. I believe it is the finance minister's responsibility to report this to the country.

Concerning our approach to the Brazilian economy, the consequences, in our opinion, of the approved bill are the following:

First, it will eventually—and very likely—cause a hyperinflationary spiral. Inflation will become rampant. Second,

this will cause unemployment. Third, the Social Security Ministry has no way of paying the monthly adjustment to retirees. This is the government's [word indistinct] restriction—the most dramatic one. The Social Security Ministry has no way of paying the retirees [words indistinct] and, because there was no appropriation of funds, the government responsibly believes it must report to the country about these consequences.

Therefore, those who make decisions must take these consequences into account. In this case, all of us want the entire government to become acquainted with the consequences. We want the decision to rest not with the finance minister or the labor minister alone, but with the entire government. [end recording]

The finance minister also reported that the Social Security Ministry is not in a position to pay the monthly retirement adjustments even if it receives Finsocial [Social Investment Fund] funds that were paid by companies and frozen by the courts.

* Disarray in Major Political Parties Examined

93SM0321A Sao Paulo VISAO in Portuguese 9 Jun 93 pp 10-12

[Article by Joao Sampaio: "The Parties' Dilemma"]

[Text] *To grow or die, that is the question being dealt with by the major Brazilian parties now that general elections are drawing nearer and President Itamar Franco is demanding complete cooperation.*

After many internal quarrels, Brazil's largest party, the PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party], has decided to take responsibility: it is indeed the government, and it is prepared to accept the risks of a failure by Itamar Franco or the benefits of his successes. As the PMDB's president, Senator Jose Fogaca (Rio Grande do Sul), says, "the party is rising to the heights." At least for purposes of external consumption, that support of Itamar's administration does not mean a new squabble over posts in the government. "The PMDB supports the administration and is not seeking positions in the administration," says Sao Paulo Governor Luiz Antonio Fleury Filho, who apparently is in tune with his party's national leadership. Fleury and Fogaca both confirm that the excessive jealousy aroused by handing control of the economy over to members of the PSDB [Brazilian Social Democracy Party], with Fernando Henrique Cardoso as minister of finance, is a thing of the past and that this time the party has really settled its differences with Itamar Franco.

While the PMDB's members are exhibiting internal peace and abandoning the dream of a candidacy that could destabilize the government, the leaders of the PFL [Liberal Front Party], the country's second-largest party, are putting their heads together and trying to unite by launching a candidate. "We are hesitating between Bahia Governor Antonio Carlos Magalhaes and businessman Silvio Santos," admits Marco Maciel (Pernambuco), the PFL's Senate leader. But Magalhaes is not willing, at least at the moment, "to take the bull by the horns," and so far Silvio has not even been consulted. Nor will he be if the governor of Bahia and one of the party's "bosses" do not give the word.

Structure: Despite its strength in Congress, the PFL lacks a powerful machine like that of the PMDB and is emerging from a violent split caused by its having continued its support of former President Fernando Collor until the very eve of his impeachment. Magalhaes and his group wanted the party to join the rock-hard opposition to Itamar Franco, but the appointment of party members—among them the PFL's president, Senator Hugo Napoleao—to cabinet posts split the party bloc in the National Congress. "Without a bloc and without the administration, the PFL does not exist," says Deputy Delfim Netto (PPR [Progressive Renewal Party], Sao Paulo). The party has many commitments to fellow party members in the second and third echelons of the Federal Government and does not want to run the risk of losing that source of patronage.

The result of the split was that on the eve of airing the program it had scheduled for its time slot in the broadcast media, the PFL, which had intended to bring its governors together in Brasilia for a big party that would be broadcast on national radio and television, was forced to change its plans. Magalhaes, who had been invited to be the star of the program in both senses—by "helping" produce it and delivering a speech that would take up most of the allotted time—simply punched holes in the plan. "I am not going to help; if there is a party, I will go there and speak, but I will not spare anyone," Bahia's powerful governor threatened. Fearing Magalhaes' well-known verbal outbursts and without the funds they were expecting from Bahia's governor, his fellow party members backtracked and postponed the party until September, when the PFL will hold its national convention. Marco Maciel believes that "by then, the party will have calmed down."

Dirty Laundry—Nor is the situation as good as it could be in the PT [Workers Party], which many political scientists point to as the country's only genuine party because it began with the rank and file, not with conniving at the top. The "Organization"—the faction that includes the majority of the national leadership—was defeated in the elections held to elect new regional directorates in most of the states. There is a mood of dissatisfaction among rank-and-file members, who have watched the PT capture official posts and turn itself into a party like the others.

"We want the party to stick to its original stance," says the new regional president of Sao Paulo, State Deputy Arlindo Chinaglia. He and the other new leaders feel that it is not enough to win power. "A radical democratization needs to take place in our society so that the people can really participate in major decisions." An ironical Chinaglia recalls the sarcastic analysis by political scientist Francisco Weffort—"All power issues from the people...therefore, let us hang on to power and we will always be with the people"—and points out that "that view, which epitomizes the attitude of our elite, must be overcome."

The PT's national president and the party's virtual candidate for president of the republic, Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, did not appreciate the criticism and threatened to resign and not run for reelection at the Eighth PT National Convention in Brasilia from 11 to 13 June. There was a general outcry. The rank and file want changes, but with Lula in charge. He has stayed, but the "black moons," as the party intellectuals surrounding the national leadership are called, have lost their credibility. Chiefly as a result of

the ruling on Deputy Ricardo Moraes (Amazonas), who was expelled by the Manaus Directorate on charges of corruption (see below). There is also the unresolved matter of Luiza Erundina. The former mayor of Sao Paulo accepted a post as minister under Itamar Franco without consulting the party's national leadership. She was suspended. Now she has left the Federal Government, and she went out shooting. She has made accusations of corruption and weakened Minister Henrique Hargreaves, and she expects the party to welcome her back with open arms. Erundina intends to run for governor of Sao Paulo in 1994, and apparently she has already cleared away one obstacle: another virtual candidate named Telma de Souza, the former mayor of Santos.

Maneuvering—When it comes to another obstacle facing Erundina—Deputy Jose Dirceu—the situation is more complicated. At a meeting of the PT National Executive Committee on Monday the 31st, Dirceu announced that he was willing to replace Lula as the party's national president if the party would guarantee that he could run for governor of Sao Paulo. A quick organizer, the Sao Paulo deputy realized that the strengthening of the radical groups might favor Erundina, and he undertook his maneuver with Lula's blessing. He announced that over the weekend he had spoken with the party's national president at length during their trip to Sao Joaquim da Barra. Lula argued that it would be difficult to head the PT while running for a major elected office. But Dirceu is not giving in. He will accept the presidency of the PT only if he is guaranteed that he can run for governor of Sao Paulo. The congressman has also held meetings with the factions known as In the PT Struggle, Socialist Democracy, and Hour of Truth, the latter a split-off from his own faction, which is the "Organization." Dirceu is also promising to consult his own group, since Lula claims to be firm in his decision not to run for reelection as party president, "and we do not want a fight during the national convention, since that could have unpredictable results," he says. In his opinion, a split during the national convention might be a complicating factor when it comes to resolving more important issues such as the platform and Lula's campaign for president of the republic. Even so, Lula is not fully convinced that it is a good solution to have Dirceu as national president of the PT and gubernatorial candidate at the same time. The PT leader's advisers say they have heard him express the concern that as both party president and candidate, Dirceu will not have sufficient peace and quiet for stitching together the network of alliances that is needed if Lula's candidacy is to take off.

Disagreements: The battle in the PT does not stop there. Dirceu intends to negotiate with the factions concerning the 20 positions on the National Executive Committee. The most important of those positions at the moment is that of vice president. After all, if he wins the nomination for governor of Sao Paulo, he will have to leave the presidency untended, and his vice president will be in charge throughout Lula's campaign. He therefore needs someone who is sufficiently in tune with the candidate. So far, the man being considered for the job is the president of the CUT [Sole Workers Center] in Minas Gerais, Antonio Carlos Pereira, who has served in the past as PT regional president in Minas Gerais. For secretary general (the post currently occupied by Dirceu), there are two possibilities: State Deputy Rui Falcao (Sao Paulo) and the president of the Cajamar Institute, Gilberto Carvalho. The latter is the most favored at the moment, since Falcao has disagreements with several PT leaders, including Dirceu himself. The congressman feels that the Organization's defeat by radical groups was an isolated occurrence. According to him, the Organization did not work hard enough, and "the Left filled the void." But not all PT members put that same interpretation on the events that began in April with the elections for municipal directorates. "That fight may go further," says an experienced PT member who prefers to remain anonymous. He admits that everything will depend on the PT's leader. "Lula will have to fight hard during the national convention to pacify the various groups, otherwise the situation will grow worse and harm even his candidacy for president in 1994."

Legislation: The crises in the PMDB, PFL, and PT may have a noticeable effect during the second half of the year on the drafting of new electoral and party legislation that is now under way in the National Congress. The PMDB and PT agree that that legislation should restore the transparence of party funds during election campaigns. They also support a provision to eliminate the so-called dwarfs: small unrepresented parties, many of which are said to be actually "parties for hire." Agreeing with them is the PPS [expansion not given] (the former Communist Party), whose leader is Deputy Roberto Freire (Pernambuco), the government leader in the Chamber of Deputies. Although small, the PPS wants to strengthen democracy with stable party organizations. Swelling the chorus is Sao Paulo Mayor Paulo Maluf's PPR. "The parties must be instruments for a stable democracy," says Senator Esperidiao Amin (Santa Catarina), president of Maluf's party. Even Senator Marco Maciel, leader of the PFL, supports the idea. He has already drafted an amendment to the existing bill to establish "transparence in party accounts by limiting donations from both individuals and legal entities" (the law currently allows donations only from individuals). And Senator Mario Covas (PSDB, Sao Paulo), the PSDB leader in the Senate, intends to amend provisions of the law for which he acted as reporter last year to adapt it to the new legislation. That law was supposed to regulate municipal elections, but because of a provision in the Constitution—stipulating that any legislation changing election procedures cannot take effect until one year after its promulgation—it ended up having no effect. One measure being considered by all the parties calls for amending the 1988 Constitution to abolish that provision so that new rules can take effect immediately and govern the general elections of 1994. Even so, there are those who doubt that Congress can move fast enough to finish the job in time.

Deputy To Be Expelled From PT

Accused of having bought a complete set of furnishings for his office in the name of the party, borrowed money from the Manaus Metalworkers Union to build his house, and installed a wiretap at the union's headquarters while the union was headed by his former ally and current opponent Elson Mello, Federal Deputy Ricardo Moraes (Amazonas) is to be expelled from the party.

The National Executive Committee accepted a report by the ethics committee made up of three PT jurists—Federal Deputies Helio Bicudo (Sao Paulo) and Edesio Passos

(Parana) and former Sao Paulo Deputy Mayor Luiz Eduardo Greenhalgh—and ruled that the case would be decided during the meeting by the National Directorate on the 10th.

This is just one more problem being faced by the PT as part of its internal crisis. Moraes has already been expelled by the Manaus Directorate on the same charges, and in a statement before the party's ethics committee, he admitted his faults. But when he appeared before the Executive Committee, the deputy presented a defense contradicting his statement. If he is expelled by the National Directorate, Moraes can still appeal to the PT National Convention, which will be held in Brasilia from 11 to 13 June. But he is not likely to be successful, since the Executive Committee's decision on Monday the 31st was unanimous, and the National Directorate's inclination is to go along with that resolution. Moraes' expulsion in Manaus occurred last year, but not until now, under pressure from news reports of the irregular acts committed by the deputy, has the National Executive Committee taken action.

PMDB Accepts Itamar

The national president of the PMDB, Senator Jose Fogaca (Rio Grande do Sul), asserts that his party has genuinely accepted cooperation with Itamar Franco's administration and that it is prepared to support him in Congress even though that will not result in new appointments to cabinet posts. In this interview with VISAO, Fogaca explains how the party reached its decision.

[VISAO] What it all boils down to, then, is that the PMDB has gotten down off the fence and decided to accept its status as a government party, is that correct?

[Fogaca] The party was never on the fence. We discussed the cabinet reshuffle in an adult manner and concluded that all things considered, it had been a positive change. That is why we continue to support the administration without any concern about posts in the cabinet.

[VISAO] In what respects was the change positive?

[Fogaca] By naming Senator Fernando Henrique Cardoso minister of finance, the administration sent two clear signals: first, that it wishes to retain the economic plan co-authored by Fernando Henrique, and second, that it is open to more dialogue with Congress, since the minister is a man from Congress. I am sure that dialogue will now be more effective.

[VISAO] What about the choice of General Romildo as minister of administration? How was that regarded by your party?

[Fogaca] In a sense, choosing the general resolved a difficult situation in an area as sensitive as the military sector. The barracks now have a direct line for conveying their demands. That is positive for the country.

* Origin, Goals of Guararapes Military Group Seen

93SM0321B Rio de Janeiro MANCHETE in Portuguese 19 Jun 93 pp 18-19

[Article by Tarlis Batista: "General Torres de Melo of the Guararapes Group: 'We Do not Want a Military Coup'"]

[Text] They assert that they are not defending a future military coup, an idea that frightens Brazilians. But the fact is that the number of military groups in the reserve (the majority) and on active duty is increasing. And they are complaining more about Brazil's politicoeconomic situation and less about the low pay they were receiving until very recently. The constant theme in all their manifestos, letters, and other statements is the call for a strong executive branch, a legislative branch more active in representing the people's interests and less concerned with promoting its own and those of its backers, and a judicial branch that is impartial in jailing everyone who violates the law.

None of those military groups has been able to organize itself as well as Guararapes, which emerged in Fortaleza in November 1991 when Brazil was still under Fernando Collor's administration. Having access to privileged information, four generals and nine colonels in the Army and Air Force began meeting when they realized—even before Pedro Collor revealed the corruption behind the scenes in the Office of the President of the Republic—that "Brazil had a weak and despotic executive branch with a tendency to grab the spotlight." According to them, the legislative branch spent its time seeking more privileges for itself and its backers "rather than defending the interests of the people who had elected it." The Guararapes group has sent letters and press releases to newspapers, magazines, and organizations, but has been faced with "tenacious persecution by the revanchist Left" and the indifference of the press, the Chamber of Deputies, the Senate, and even the Office of the President.

"We Seek Only To Reorganize Society"

"We could not get any space back then, but now we are managing to get our message to a larger number of Brazilians," MANCHETE was told by Major General Francisco Batista Torres de Melo, who has spent 44 of his 68 years in the military. A native of Fortaleza, Ceara, he is a classmate of other generals (Santa Cruz, Braga, Ylberto Lima, and others). "We are tired of explaining to those who want us to retake control of Brazil's destinies that that is the mission not of the Army but of organized Brazilian society. What we are really seeking is the reorganization and restructuring of that society. Brazil has reached the climax of social degeneration, a process that began during Vargas' second administration. Anyone with a good memory knows that the big scandals started in that period and culminated in the president's suicide. After that, by gradual stages and in administration after administration, we entered into a process in which the rulers began, with rare exceptions, to think more about themselves and less about Brazil. And I include in this even the mistakes made by the military when they were in power," the general emphasizes. He left Fortaleza two weeks ago to travel around Brazil. His marathon will take him as far as Porto Alegre, and his purpose is to make the Guararapes group's objectives known to his colleagues in uniform.

"A Nation Without a Leader Is Open to Anything"

The idea is to try to increase the number of officers beyond the 68 now making up the organization. But at the same time, the group will definitely establish contact with military men in such other groups as Scintilla, Tatterdemalion,

Independent, the National Salvation Movement, Araucaria, Fearless, Weather Vane, the National Mobilization Council, and so on.

Torres de Melo does not rule out the possibility that something similar to what Fujimori did to the Peruvians will happen among us. Why? "Brazil is without leadership. And a nation without a leader is liable to let itself be carried away by the siren song of an opportunistic politician. And that is not what we want," the general is careful to point out. In his opinion, the ideal thing would be for Brazil to find a politician with the same posture as Great Britain's tough and conservative Margaret Thatcher. "Brazil cannot continue with an executive branch that is not respected by everyone, a legislative branch that acts against the people's interests, and a judicial branch that does not faithfully enforce our laws—that is, one which favors the rich and convicts only the poor. By recovering its credibility, the government will have the means it needs for implementing the drastic economic measures that will make victory over inflation possible. We will achieve all that as soon as the people are sure that Brazil's three branches of government are in the hands of serious men who are honest and respected by all. The Armed Forces advocate the truth of the real Brazil. And that is not the Brazil which we are seeing here," he emphasizes.

Mingling very diverse episodes in Brazilian history, the general tries to defend the military. And he points out that "the movement of 1935 was headed by the civilian Luiz Carlos Prestes. Those of 1937-1938 were headed by Plinio Salgado—with Magalhaes Pinto and Milton Campos as the civilians signing the manifesto. In 1954—the movement that ended in the suicide of Getulio Vargas—the civilians involved were Carlos Lacerda and Cafe Filho. And in 1964, the civilians involved were again Carlos Lacerda, Magalhaes Pinto, Adhemar de Barros, Prado Kelly, Aliomar Baleeiro, and others." Also: "In the most recent revolution, they wanted to throw the leftists out of the government, and they asked the military for help. It should be recalled that it was not the military who started the bank holdups in which several innocent civilians died. The lessons were bitter ones, and we do not want to repeat or revive them. We are struggling resolutely for respect for the Constitution and the preservation of democracy. That is why we are so insistent that the politicians must change their behavior, which has done nothing but help push us toward an undesired social explosion," he says.

According to Torres de Melo, some of the events occurring in Brazil are simply reflections of the executive branch's weak performance. "That crazy idea of splitting the nation is one of them. We are against the splitting of Brazil. We advocate and defend the nation's unity. And that unity began to be weakened from the moment that Fernando Collor demarcated the Ianomami Indian lands under pressure from the U.S. Government."

"It Costs Nothing To Keep One's Eyes Open"

Also: "The immensity of Brazilian territory must of necessity be under the direct control of the government," says the general, thus agreeing with the military who have started worrying about the U.S. Army's maneuvers along our borders. "First it went to Bolivia, then to Colombia, Argentina, the Guianas, and Venezuela. A battalion with 250 men, sophisticated armament, and powerful radars is stationed in the Colombian town of Leticia across the border from Tabatinga in the State of Amazonas. Contrary to the treaty signed between the two countries and allowing access by the Colombian military to armament and equipment, that access does not exist." Torres de Melo continues: "We have a choice of two interpretations concerning everything that is happening. The first has to do with the end of the Cold War and the U.S. Army's absolute domination throughout the world. Do you remember what Rome did in the past? The U.S. Army may do the same thing today. They feel that they can establish the borders they want. In Brazil's case, they are going to encounter stiff resistance. It will be something like the defeat they suffered in Vietnam, Great Britain's downfall in India, and that of the Russians in Afghanistan. I prefer the other interpretation, which is that they are fighting the drug traffic. But it costs nothing to keep one's eyes wide open," the general says ironically.

Chile

Aylwin Returns From Summit, Comments on Cuban Relations

PY1807020293 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 0100 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Text] President Patricio Aylwin, who returned to the country this afternoon, expressed optimism about the democratization of Cuba in the near future. He said that progress in that direction would resolve the problem of political prisoners.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] President Aylwin returned this afternoon from attending the Third Ibero-American Summit, which was held in Brazil over three days. President Aylwin pointed out that the agreement signed there places the struggle against poverty as the first priority. He also commented on the call for solidarity made by Fidel Castro in the face of the U.S. economic blockade against Cuba.

[Aylwin] I would say that some of the presidents—interpreting more or less a general feeling—conveyed to Castro our favorable attitude toward solidarity, but at the same time expressed the need for Cuba to take effective steps toward a process of democratization.

[Reporter] But did you notice any intention by Fidel Castro to move toward a process of democratization?

[Aylwin] Well, we did not get into specific negotiations; only general proposals were made, and I hope the democratization will occur, because I personally believe that both the end of the blockade as well as the will to move toward democratization are important factors for the development of the Cuban people and for the stability of peace in this part of the world. And naturally, a democratization process involves finding a solution to the problem of political prisoners. [end recording]

Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma indicated that President Aylwin gave him instructions to discuss the Cuban problem with the countries of the Rio Group. Regarding the summit held in Brazil, Silva Cimma said

important agreements were reached with relation to terrorism, drug trafficking, corruption, and agricultural development.

He also reported that in the next few months the presidents of Peru, Ecuador, Brazil, Bolivia, and Mexico will visit Chile.

Commentator Favors 'Political Solution' to Cuban Crisis

PY1807025893 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 0100 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Analyst Raul Zor commentary]

[Text] Cuba has gone through difficult times since the advent of the revolution in 1959, but its current crisis is the worst of all. This is why Fidel Castro has used the Ibero-American Summit in Brazil to denounce the 30-year-old U.S. trade blockade against his country.

During the past three decades Cuba obtained supplies from, and sold its products to, socialist countries. Today Castro is perplexed. In a recent speech, he confessed to not being able to accept the collapse of the Soviet Union.

The Cuban Government has sent some conciliatory signals to the United States. Havana said that it might discuss reparations for U.S. property confiscated after the Cuban revolution. A more specific gesture has been the reduction in its military forces. Reliable sources indicate that the Cuban Army has already discharged 20 percent of its personnel.

An easing up of the military confrontation with the United States is important to Cuba, as it would result in saving a portion of its meager resources. Washington, for its part, has not shown any desire to soften the blockade. It is unlikely that President Bill Clinton will make any decision favorable to the Caribbean island.

To make things worse, Cuba is going through a run of bad luck. This year its sugar production will decline, provoking a $500-million reduction in its income.

It is difficult to see how the Cubans will overcome this crisis. Several Latin American countries have told Fidel Castro that the only way out of this crisis is through political reform.

Echoing the position of other leaders, Chilean President Patricio Aylwin stated that Cuba must start a process of democratization. Castro was specifically told that the Communist Party of Cuba should stop being the only party, and should relinquish its full control over the Cuban power structure. Castro has not agreed to this request.

Cuban officials believe that their system is perfectly democratic. Castro seems to be getting ready for the worst. In a recent speech, he alerted his countrymen that the months to come will be very, very hard. Castro stated that no one can conceive of life in Cuba without the revolution, and noted that its defeat will be the end of everything.

Castro said he has received many messages from various countries, telling him, invariably: Resist, resist. Castro has not changed; after all, his motto is quite clear: Fatherland or death. What indeed has changed is the world. It is proper to ask here how long the Cubans will resist the formidable economic crisis they are experiencing. It is thus increasingly urgent that political solutions are found to the Cuban drama.

Colombia

FARC Column Reportedly Occupies Narino Town

PA1707185293 Santa Fe de Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Text] Pasto—A large column of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia [FARC] on the evening of 16 July occupied Samaniego, a town located 80 km southwest of the capital of Narino Department. Early reports indicate that the guerrillas broke into the Agrarian Fund facility and scattered huge sums of money throughout the town's main streets.

Reports also indicate that the Samaniego jail was destroyed and the whereabouts of its inmates are unknown. The guerrillas from the 29th FARC Front cut off power and communications services before withdrawing. The number of casualties sustained by the police who were guarding the town and the insurgents is unknown.

Police and Army troops were sent from Narino to regain control of the town.

Authorities Fight Crime Within Police Force

PA1707202593 Santa Fe de Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Text] The Attorney General's Office punished 11 officers, 12 noncommissioned officers, and 30 police officers for alleged human rights violations, misuse of authority, abuse of duties, and perpetration of crimes.

The National Police Ombudsman's Office [Procuraduria Delegada para la Policia Nacional] has disclosed that almost 50 police officers have been acquitted due to lack of evidence. The Attorney General's Office disclosed that of the 2,618 complaints filed over the past few months, the National Police was charged in 1,517 cases. The violations most frequently perpetrated by police are those bordering on minor and serious infractions.

According to statistics released by the Attorney General's Office, in 1991 and 1992 the number of complaints against the National Police more than doubled. The report indicates, however, that in 1992 the number of complaints against the police decreased by 10 percent. Despite this decrease, there are three times as many complaints against the National Police as there are against the military forces, which have the second highest rate of human rights violations by state employees.

Meanwhile, General Luis Montenegro Rinco, commander of the Santa Fe de Bogota Metropolitan Police, within the next few hours will preside over a security council in Ciudad Bolivar. The plan, according to a report released by Gen. Montenegro Rinco, is to establish all of the factors that generate violence in the country's capital, attack them directly, deal with them, and end all the attacks, thefts, and crimes that are perpetrated in this part of the capital. Gen. Montenegro Rinco also announced that the number of guard posts and Immediate Attention Centers, CAI, will be increased, and mobile guard posts will also be set up to

counteract vehicle thefts, street assaults, and the actions of fake Administrative Department of Security detectives, police, and Army troops.

Guerrillas Kill Spanish Priest in San Jacinto, Bolivar

PA1707190593 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1800 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Text] The body of Javier Cirujano Arjona, parish priest of San Jacinto, Bolivar, was found in the past few hours. The Spanish priest was kidnapped and beaten to death by a guerrilla group. At this time, shocked and infuriated residents of San Jacinto are waiting for the arrival of the body of their parish priest.

The Spanish Embassy in Colombia will be in charge of arranging the transfer of the body of Javier Cirujano to Spain. Residents of San Jacinto, Bolivar, are asking that the priest be buried in the town he helped to build.

The Spanish Government, through Pedro Sanz, Spanish ambassador in charge in Colombia, condemned the killing of Father Javier Cirujano Arjona. The diplomat blamed the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia and Popular Liberation Army guerrillas for the crime, asking them to explain why they killed the priest.

[Begin Sanz recording] It is an execrable crime, affecting a foreigner who was totally established in the country and who was well liked by the people. He was totally dedicated to others. He was engaged in important pastoral and social work. He had lived in San Jacinto for 30 years and had given his life to this town. We have no words to describe this killing. [end recording]

For its part, the church described the killing of parish priest Cirujano Arjona as a sacrilege.

[Begin Father Carlos Ferreira recording] It is painful for a priest such as myself to hear of the killing of any person, much more so the killing of a priest, which is considered a major religious crime, a sacrilege. [end recording]

Killed for Protecting Ex-Guerrillas

PA1807192893 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1803 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Report by Miguel Angel Rangel]

[Text] The dissident Popular Liberation Army fraction has murdered Father Javier Cirujano Arjona for protecting former guerrillas who have returned to civilian life. The extreme cruelty with which the priest was killed is terrifying.

The body of the priest was recovered by various military companies because his murderers even tried to prevent his remains being laid to rest. The body of father Javier Cirujano Arjona was found at Las Cajitas, located three hours from San Jacinto.

The body of the priest was found by Infantry Battalion No. 3 and was buried in a grave located in a dense mountain, where access was nearly impossible. The search lasted 45 days in which 100 Navy officers participated. The first evidence on the death of the priest was the discovery of his glasses, which were discovered next to the grave where he was buried. The Spanish priest was tortured and beaten to death by his captors on 29 May, the day on which he was kidnapped.

[Begin Jose Teanud, mayor of San Jacinto, recording] The use of a knife for the murder of father Javier Cirujano has been ruled out. [end recording]

The discovery of the priest's body was nothing but a terrifying sight. His body showed signs of torture and an advanced state of decomposition.

The transfer of the body of Father Javier Cirujano Arjona to San Jacinto was done strictly by the military. There, amid tears, disappointment, and the indignation of the people, the body of the priest is laying in state in San Jacinto Church, prior to being flown to Spain. This crushes the hopes and illusions that made Father Cirujano leave his mother country to sow a seed of life in a corner of Colombia.

The priest of San Jacinto, who was kidnapped on 29 May, was apparently killed that same day.

Army Conducts Efforts To Prevent Attacks on Oil Complex

PA1607172893 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Report by Marcela Duran]

[Text] The Cano Limon-Covenas Pipeline in Arauca was blown up for the second time this week. Meanwhile, guerrillas in Casanare are getting ready to carry out actions against the Cusiana oil complex. Authorities have already detected that the guerrillas have begun to recruit young men.

The Army was ready this time. More than 5,000 men from the 16th Brigade are now ready to protect the Cusiana oil complex. The Defense Ministry authorized the deployment of more troops to Casanare. The new brigade is now formed by five counterguerrilla battalions, two cavalry units, an infantry battalion, and a fleet of helicopters. The guerrillas have also reached the area, however. The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia have combined Fronts 10, 28, 38, and 45 under the command of a guerrilla leader known as Aldemar. This group will operate in Casanare under the name of Heroes of Cusiana.

According to the Army, the subversives have recruited young peasants and have asked cattlemen and rice growers of the region for protection money.

[Begin General Alvaro Velandia recording] They work in several phases. They start by conducting political activities in the area and then start drug-trafficking activities, especially the cultivation of drugs in areas of high elevation. [end recording]

Even though the Army has already dealt serious blows on this organization, the biggest challenge for the Army is to prevent terrorist actions against the installations at the Cusiana oil complex.

Statistics Office Reports 1st Quarter Production Growth

PA1907013793 Santa Fe de Bogota EL NUEVO SIGLO in Spanish 15 Jul 93 p 3b

[Text] The manufacturing sector experienced a 6.27-percent growth in terms of real production, and employment rose 2.53 percent during the first quarter of this year. According to a report by the National Administrative Department of Statistics [DANE], the production growth index rose 4.5 percent and employment grew 2.43 percent, not counting coffee, a sector that has marketing problems on account of the collapse of the world coffee pact.

As for the industrial sectors, the highest growth rate was registered in the sector known as "equipment and transportation materials," which grew 66.1 percent, the report indicated. These figures clash with the results of an opinion poll taken by the National Association of Industrialists (ANDI) that disclosed that in the first five months of this year production and sales had an unfavorable trend. The ANDI poll, conducted by businessmen, showed that the lack of vitality that was experienced until April was worse during he January to May period.

The DANE statistics pointed to growth in other major sectors such as: plastics, up 22 percent; machinery and electrical appliances, up 21.1 percent; clay, tile, and porcelain products, up 19.9 percent; timber industry, up 18.3 percent; wood for furniture, up 16 percent; glass and glass products, up 16.3 percent; other oil and coal by-products, up 14.7 percent; other chemical products, up 11.8 percent; and machinery, not counting electrical machinery, up 9 percent.

Among those industries experiencing a drop were hide and hide products, beverages, paper and paper products, printing presses, publishing houses and similar companies, shoe manufacturers, food not including coffee, and oil by-products.

Production during the first three months of the year showed positive and negative results in the country's most industrialized zones, such as Soacha, Aburra Valle, and Valle del Cauca Department. It grew 15.84 percent in Santa Fe de Bogota, 15.82 percent in Antioquia Department, but in Valle del Cauca it dropped 1.48 percent.

The capital goods sector was the most dynamic with an increase of 36 percent, followed by the construction goods sector with a positive variation of 9.5 percent, unfinished goods went up 5.3 percent, and consumer goods had a slight increase of 0.5 percent.

The average real salary rose 3.9 percent. Salaries went up 6 percent for white-collar workers and 2.3 percent for blue-collar workers. Coffee, plastic products, transportation materials, electric appliances, and clothing had the highest increases. Employment experienced a 2.53-percent increase. The following sectors had the largest drop: chemical substances, wood industry, refinery products, tobacco, beverages, and basic iron and steel industries.

* ANDI President Faults Management of Economy

93SM0316A Santa Fe de Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 10 Jun 93 p 3B

[Commentary by Carlos Arturo Angel Arango, president of the National Association of Industrialists (ANDI)]

[Text] The full realization of a project, however small it may be, depends basically on the consistency and coherence of the work done. Without either one or the other, any effort made becomes vain and fruitless.

In recent years, Colombia has undertaken a project of overwhelming importance—establishing the conditions required for our products and services to be competitive on the international level. This has made it necessary to determine the precise areas in which work was needed in order to carry out the general task undertaken. These areas included the adoption of new technologies, improvement of the infrastructure, making state procedures more flexible, as well as simpler, and the adoption of general production incentives to replace the particular ones.

It cannot be denied that something has been achieved in these areas, but much still remains to be done. And it is now with the initial push completed that the need for perseverance and consistency becomes more obvious.

The ports and airports, highways, telecommunication systems, and other public services are characterized by conditions that are consistent neither with the technological developments of the modern day nor with businessmen's requirements. The competitive disadvantages resulting from this situation take on greater importance in the Colombian case, given the location of large production centers in the interior of the country.

Under these circumstances, the efforts of private individuals to improve their productive capacity and yields are counteracted by an environment that is being managed by the state in an inefficient and costly fashion.

The foreign-exchange policy, in turn, is still characterized by great uncertainty. In 1991 and during a good portion of 1992, the influx of capital, from sources as yet unspecified, exerted pressures on the exchange rate that were translated into a real revaluation of about 10.9 percent during that period of time. The foreign-exchange market cannot be clearly analyzed, because some prices do not seem to respond solely to the supply of and demand for the purchase and sale of goods.

When it comes to the oversight by and the procedures of the state, there have been sudden changes of direction. In the customs' sector, the previous costly control procedures have been replaced by a total lack of control, leaving important sectors of the economy—the agricultural, textile, and tobacco sectors, among others—defenseless against smuggling and dishonest commercial practices such as dumping and underinvoicing. In the tax sector, on the other hand, the current method of auditing taxpayers reaches the point of absurdity in more than a few instances.

On the other hand, the Congress is currently considering proposals that would work against improved competitive capacity, in addition to altering the rules of the game—a serious factor in and of itself.

The proposal pertaining to royalties, for example, because it would increase rates, establish minimum prices, and expand the taxable base through the introduction of elements unrelated to the concept of gross production value at the minehead, would limit the international competitive capacity of Colombian minerals.

The draft laws on electrical and other public services call for fiscal and parafiscal impositions that would be reflected in higher costs to the customers, especially nonresidential customers. A number of these taxes are parallel in nature and have goals similar to others being sought through different proposals, such as the goal established for the hydroelectric and thermal power plants with the creation of the Ministry of Environment. All of these things would result in barriers to the entry of private generators.

The law governing the National Printing Office contains a provision designed to establish a monopoly for this institution. This is incomprehensible, because printing is not an activity essential to the execution of the tasks of the state, and it is an area in which almost perfect competence exists.

In the draft law on parafiscal contributions, there are various aspects that—apart from being unconstitutional—would provide the territorial entities with an easy mechanism for obtaining resources without having to turn to the unpopular path of tax reform.

The proposal concerning administrative contracting specifically eliminates those contracts that encourage scientific and technological activities.

And, finally, there is the Labor Statute, or "labor counterreforms." The proposals here are as clearly well-intentioned as they are regressive, but they not only do away with the positive aspects introduced by Law 50 of 1990, but also point toward legislation even more rigid than that in existence prior to the reform. This would suggest a reluctance to create new jobs, and the result would be excessive economic costs for the country. The calculations made by the ANDI, based on an assessment of only some of the proposed measures, indicate that, if adopted, they would increase the wage mass for the economy by more than 21 percent of the GDP [gross domestic product] annually. This increase, which would amount to 6,963,525,000,000 pesos in absolute terms, is the equivalent of about 97 percent of the general budget of the nation for that same year, 68 percent of the budget for 1993, and 58 percent of the total wage mass for 1992.

The above list is sufficiently indicative to show the importance of a definite political determination on the part of this and future governments to infuse stability and consistency into our economic activity. It must be remembered that the structural problems in this area cannot be resolved by temporary measures, since they, due to their limited and partial nature, affect certain links in the productive chain, first of all, but in the end, they affect the whole of it.

Without stable, coordinated, and determined management, the goal of improving the level of Colombia's competitive capacity will never be more than an idle dream.

Ecuador

Government To Apply Security Law If Workers Strike

PA1707195493 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 2300 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] The national government, through its main spokesman Jose Vicente Maldonado, has warned the workers of the nation's electricity sector that if they strike the security law will be enacted whereby workers and employees of the Ecuadoran Institute of Electrification and of the Ecuadoran State Petroleum Enterprise will be mobilized. Whoever fosters walkouts, strikes, or force measures, will be tried in civil and labor courts, spokesman Maldonado stressed. Here is what Maldonado said:

[Begin recording] [Maldonado] For now, I can tell you that the Energy and Mines Ministry has initiated a dialogue that I feel will be very positive for the nation's interests. I believe there is a lack of understanding regarding the scope and the future plans of the reforms and the effect they will have on the nation's fuel law. This dialogue will allow the leaders and the workers of this important state sector to participate in the positive and innovative policies that the national government is proposing for this sector. As I said, it will allow the positive participation because I believe.- ...[pauses] the national government believes that these reforms are necessary and that they will favor the nation's development.

Meanwhile, [words indistinct] warned on the criminal consequences that would result from the suspension of the supply of electricity, fuel, or of any other nature within this energy sector. We, as the government, want to warn the leaders regarding the legal and labor decisions that the government will have to adopt if a strike is staged on 21 July. I want to tell the community that we will not tolerate—if necessary through the application of the nation's security law—we will not tolerate [repeats himself] the suspension, not even for one hour, of those services to the people.

[Unidentified reporter] [Question indistinct]?

[Maldonado] I believe it was a very positive meeting. It was explained....[pauses] as I said, this work was initiated jointly between the workers and the leaders of the electricity sector with the energy and mines minister [words indistinct] to explain in the best manner the scope of the law on the modernization of the [words indistinct], as well as the reform law on hydrocarbons.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]?

[Maldonado] If the leaders of the energy sector unions decide to paralyze or suspend these services to society, the government will act with severity within the legal framework, and if necessary the Armed Forces will be used to quell such movements. [end recording]

These were the statements by Jose Vicente Maldonado, general secretary of public administration and government spokesman, who announced that the government will apply the security law if strikes or work stoppages are declared by energy and petroleum sectors of the country.

Paraguay

Rodriguez Returns From Ibero-American Summit

PY1807015393 Asuncion Cerro Cora Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Text] After attending the Third Ibero-American Summit in Salvador, Brazil, President Andres Rodriguez returned today to Asuncion. He said:

[Begin recording] I truly had a very good, exciting time at the Third Ibero-American Summit of chiefs of state and government. The king of Spain, who also attended the summit, extended to me—as usual—his fraternal greetings and his appreciation. I believe this gesture was intended for our country, and not for me alone. [end recording]

Press reports had indicated in recent days that as soon as President Rodriguez returned from the Salvador summit he would partially veto the Labor Code. Rodriguez gave us the following reply:

[Begin recording] I never said I would veto some paragraphs of the code. I did not say that at all. I will, however, have time tonight, tomorrow [18 July], and on Monday to meet with my economic team and with my legal advisers to determine if there are some points that I should take into consideration. Only after I do all that will I be able to give you an answer on this topic. [end recording]

Peru

Japan Donates Hydroelectric Plant Equipme[illegible]

PA1607162193 Lima Global de Televisi[illegible] Spanish 0100 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] Ten small hydroelectric plants in [illegible] interior will be put into operation thanks to a million-yen donation from Japan. This donation was channeled through Japan's International Cooperation Agen[illegible]. On 15 July, Rafael Ferradas, deputy energy and mines minister, delivered the 16 [figure as heard] pieces of hydroelectric equipment to representatives of the country's electrical enterprises. This ceremony was held at Peruvian State Electric Power Enterprise in San Juan de Miraflores. The plants will begin operating in October, thus benefitting more than 40,000 users of energy produced in the plants of Santo Domingo, (Sansaque), Chalaco, Huancabamba, Cotahuasi, Huaro, Churin, Yaso, Huamachuco, and Pajcha.

Fujimori, IDB President Discuss Investment Programs

PA1707191893 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Text] On the morning of 16 July in Salvador, Bahia President Alberto Fujimori met with Inter-American Development Bank [IDB] President Enrique Iglesias. After the meeting Iglesias' upcoming trip to Peru and the concession of over $500 million in new loans to the country were announced.

The meeting took place in President Fujimori's suite where, for 25 minutes, he and Iglesias discussed IDB cooperation with Peru. Iglesias announced that he will visit Peru in August to evaluate the Peruvian programs in which the IDB has invested.

[Begin Iglesias recording] Everyone is aware of the difficult situation Peru has experienced over the past few years and everyone supports the consolidation of pacification, the democratic functioning of the country's (?institutions), and the implementation of an economic program that will take time, but is the only means of success for the country. [end recording]

Meanwhile, President Fujimori said that national pacification is at the core of Peru's development and the IDB's loans will be used for this purpose. He also announced the implementation of a special program of surcharges for farm products.

[Begin Fujimori recording] The basic topic of our talks was, obviously, the economic program as it pertains to pacification. Pacification without a good development program and welfare programs for the people might fall short, especially in rural areas.

Another issue we discussed was the surcharge for packaged farm products, for which the government's policy is to stabilize the prices of the leading imported farm products. We also discussed other economic issues as they pertain to pacification, such as the National Housing Fund. Although I disagree with unilateral payments by workers, this fund will be used for housing services. [end recording]

President Fujimori unexpectedly advanced his return to Lima. He will be leaving 2200 Bahia time, 2000 Peruvian time.

[illegible]overnment Extends State of Emergency in [illegible]epartments

PA1707164993 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 1629 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Text] The government has extended for 60 days the state of emergency in the Department of Lima and the Constitutional Province of El Callao starting on 21 July. It also extended for 60 days the state of emergency in the Provinces of Coronel Portillo and Padre Abad in Ucayali; Puerto Inca in Huanuco; and Ucayali in Loreto starting starting on 19 July.

Uruguay

Chamber of Deputies Rejects U.S. Attack on Baghdad

PY1607150693 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 0930 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] U.S. Ambassador to Uruguay Richard Brown reproached Deputy Javier Barrios Anza, from the National [Blanco] Party, for a declaration issued by the Chamber of Deputies this week rejecting the U.S. attack on Baghdad. The incident happened on the evening of 14 July during a reception hosted by the French Embassy to mark another anniversary of the storming of the Bastille.

Barrios Anza will report this incident during the [Chamber of Deputies] International Affairs Committee's next session. He announced this at the Carrasco airport yesterday

to legislators from the four parties represented in Congress. According to a report published by the morning newspaper EL OBSERVADOR, Barrios Anza made these remarks in the presence of an EL OBSERVADOR journalist.

During the banquet, Brown approached Barrios Anza, who is a member of the Chamber of Deputies International Affairs Committee and represents the [Blanco Party faction] National Rocha Movement, and expressed his disagreement with the declaration issued by the deputies.

Brown, who will be replaced as head of the U.S. diplomatic mission in our country soon, told the Blanco Party legislator that Uruguay is a friendly country and expressed his doubts on whether, after the declaration voted on by the Chamber of Deputies, this description would hold now.

According to (?eyewitnesses), the U.S. ambassador reminded the Blanco Party legislator of the fact that neither Argentina nor Brazil had condemned the attack on Baghdad, reproaching him for the fact that the Uruguayan Congress actually did.

Barrios Anza pointed out that our country is interested in respect for international law and that, in this case, international law was clearly violated by the United States, prompting the Chamber of Deputies declaration.

Brown then said the United States and not Iraqi leader Saddam Husayn was actually condemned, to which Barrios Anza responded that all types of terrorism, including state terrorism, always have been condemned.

The National Rocha Movement legislator also told Brown that the United States ordered the attack on Baghdad based on a presumption that did not allow, in any case, any response, as the government of Bill Clinton said. The legislator also noted that this presumption did not indicate that a country, the United States, but a citizen [former U.S. President George Bush] was about to be attacked. The military (?attack) was carried out several months later because of the alleged existence of a notable lack of proportion in the equipment used.

Speaking again, the U.S. ambassador stressed that he did not interpret the presumption the same way the Uruguayan Congress did, abounding in arguments on the U.S. stance.

It is appropriate to point out that Barrios Anza, along with a group of legislators, left for Sao Paulo yesterday to participate in a Latin American Parliament meeting today.

We recall that on 13 July the Chamber of Deputies firmly rejected, with a single vote against the declaration, the attack on Baghdad, understanding that the action clearly had violated the UN charter, an action described in Article 51.

The declaration also expressed distress over the fact that the aforementioned unlawful action caused many innocent victims [words indistinct] along with other congresses to organize efforts in an attempt to prevent similar incidents and harshly condemned any act of international terrorism jeopardizing international security.

Costa Rican President Arrives on Official Visit

PY1807005593 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2355 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Excerpt] Montevideo, 17 Jul (EFE)—Costa Rican President Rafael Angel Calderon arrived here today on an official visit to Uruguay, to discuss with his colleague Luis Alberto Lacalle ways to strengthen political, economic, commercial, and cultural relations between the two countries.

Calderon, his wife Gloria Bejarano, and his entourage arrived here from Brazil after attending the Third Ibero-American Summit. They immediately went to Punta del Este, the main Uruguayan resort 150 km east of Montevideo. [passage omitted]

Venezuela

URD Endorses Caldera's Presidential Candidacy

PA1807200893 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Report by Annerys Gonzalez]

[Text] Five months before presidential elections take place, Senator for Life Dr. Rafael Caldera continues to receive support. He received the endorsement of the Democratic Republican Union [URD], which on 17 July proclaimed Caldera as its presidential candidate for the November elections.

In a plenary session held at Central Park, the URD—as the MAS [Movement Toward Socialism], MIN [National Integrity Movement] and MET [People's Electoral Movement] previously did—officially announced the nomination of Senator for Life Rafael Caldera as its presidential candidate for the upcoming elections.

With the attendance of regional delegates from all over the country and the top leaders of that group, the URD joined the National Convergence under the conviction that Caldera is the alternative to achieve the change Venezuela needs, thanks to his experience and true democratic identification.

[Begin recording] [Ismenia Villalba, MAS senator] Under the present circumstances, you, as presidential candidate, have the best and finest qualifications to become the next president of Venezuela. [applause]

[Caldera] We cannot hide the serious problems the nation is facing. We note this with anguish and pain, but also with the determination to face these difficulties. This demands a great national agreement, a great movement in which groups such as the URD contribute their moral, political, and real strength to give the country a formula it wants and requires. [end recording]

Meanwhile, the People's Vanguard Movement [Movimiento Avazada Popular] led by Deputy Luis Raul Matos Azocar, will also proclaim former President Rafael Caldera as its presidential candidate for the upcoming elections.

Presidential Candidate Questions Polls Credibility

PA1807200693 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Text] According to statements by Andres Velasquez, Radical Cause Party presidential candidate, the results of the latest polls have no credibility because they are manipulated by those who hire polling companies.

[Begin Velasquez recording] In sum, people should take their own poll to have an opinion about people's preferences. They should take a poll with their working peers, people with whom they travel to work, their neighbors and so on, so they can reach their own conclusions. [end recording]

Workers Demonstrate for Salary Increase at National Congress

PA1607201393 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Report by Jose Marcano]

[Text] Peaceful demonstrations once again overwhelmed the National Congress. On 15 July university administrative workers staged a march demanding a 71,000 bolivares minimum wage adjustment. At the same time, relatives and friends of Colonel Hidalgo Valero Briceno presented a document calling for an immediate stay of the proceedings against him. [Words indistinct] protest march reach the National Congress doorsteps. One of the rallies was organized by university administrative officers who form part of the 200,000 public work force. A university workers delegation presented a document to the National Congress Finance Commission calling for additional budget allocations to improve wages in accordance with qualifications.

[Begin recording] [PTPF [expansion unknown] President Angel Barroyeta] We have been systematically requesting that Congress approve a fair salary increase for all university administrative officers who currently earn 17,000 bolivares. We came here today to deliver another wage increase request. We came here to deliver an official request and we have received a very unpleasant surprise in that the Congress approved a 20 percent salary increase for themselves, yet those of us gathered here today have been denied a basic wage increase. [end recording]

The other protest march was intended to create public awareness that would encourage a climate favorable to the release of Col. Hidalgo Valero Briceno. Relatives and friends of the colonel believe that an investigation must be initiated into the influence of drug trafficking in the Armed Forces.

[Begin Jorge Valero, brother of Col. Hidalgo Valero Briceno, recording] We are calling on Defense Minister Vice Admiral Radames Munoz to honor the promises he made during his appointment address. At the time, he promised the country that he was going to fight drug trafficking and corruption. We believe that Vice Adm. Radames Munoz is an honorable man and will launch an investigation into the charges made by Col. Valero. [end recording]

Next week, Col. Hidalgo Valero's relatives and friends will meet with President Ramon J. Velasquez to request a stay of the proceedings in order to bring to issue to a close.

Defense Ministry Announces Selective Military Service

PA1607162293 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1550 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Text] Effective 15 July, every 18-year-old will have to register at the nearest civilian registration center for mandatory military service.

Approximately 6,500 metropolitan area youth will have to visit the registration centers to comply with military service duties.

According to Caracas Prefect Jose Navarro Donnas, his responsibility as a state official is to ensure that the Defense Ministry's announcement to select 1,993 new soldiers is conducted properly.